General Equation of a Circle

Preliminaries and Objectives

Preliminaries

- Pythagorean Theorem
- Transformation of graphs (shifting horizontally and vertically)

Objectives

- Find the equation of a circle, given the center and the radius.

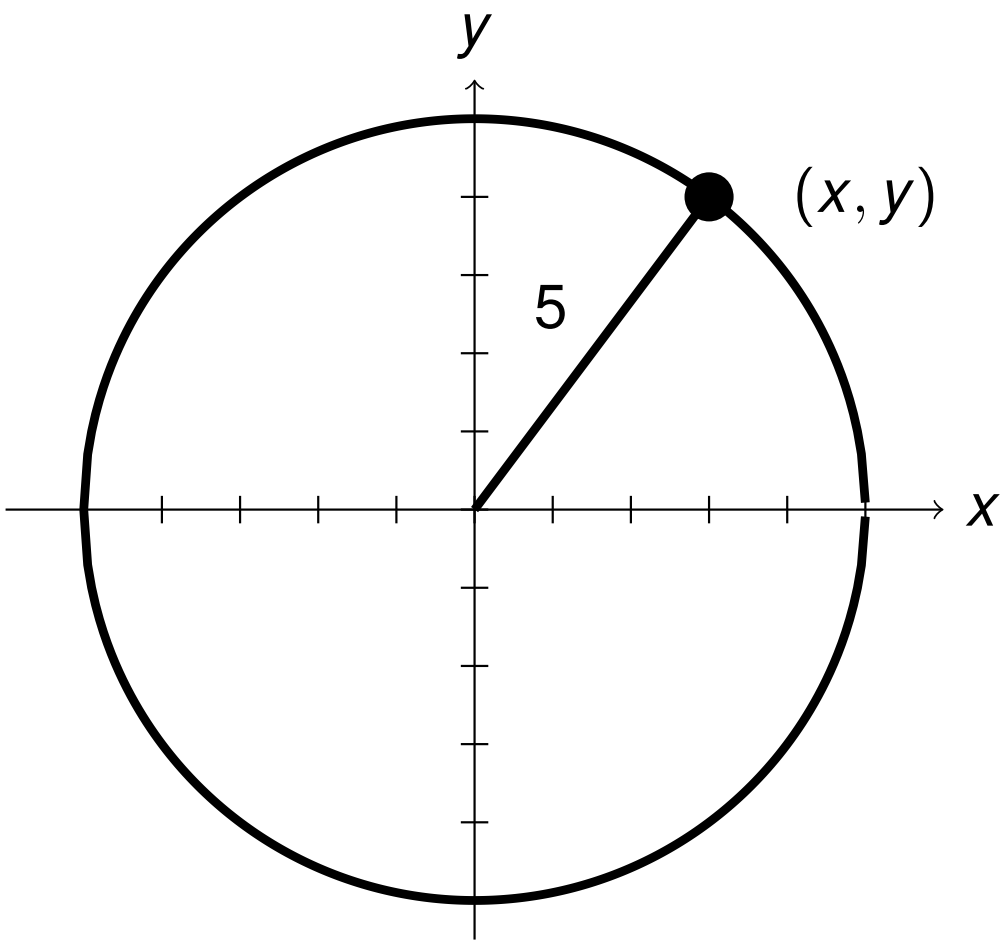
Geometric Definition

A circle is the set of all points located a fixed distance from some fixed point.

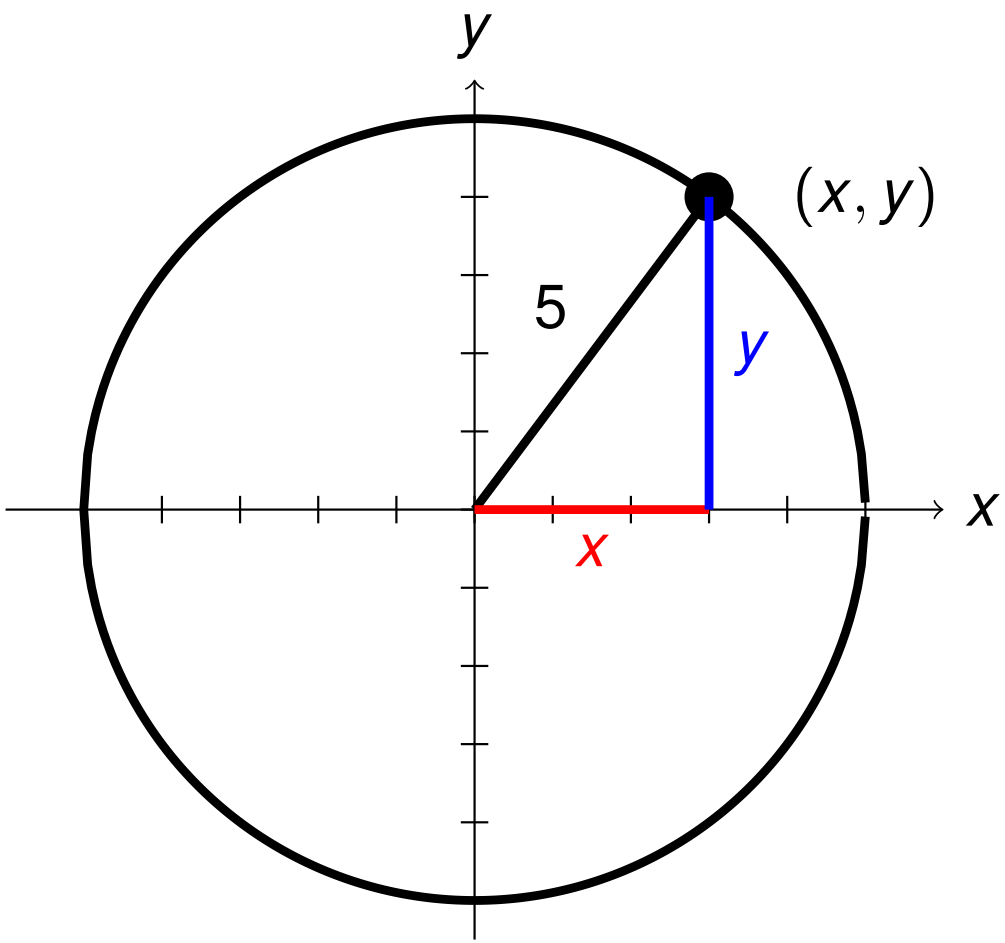
The fixed distance is called the **radius** of the circle.

The fixed point is called the **center** of the circle.

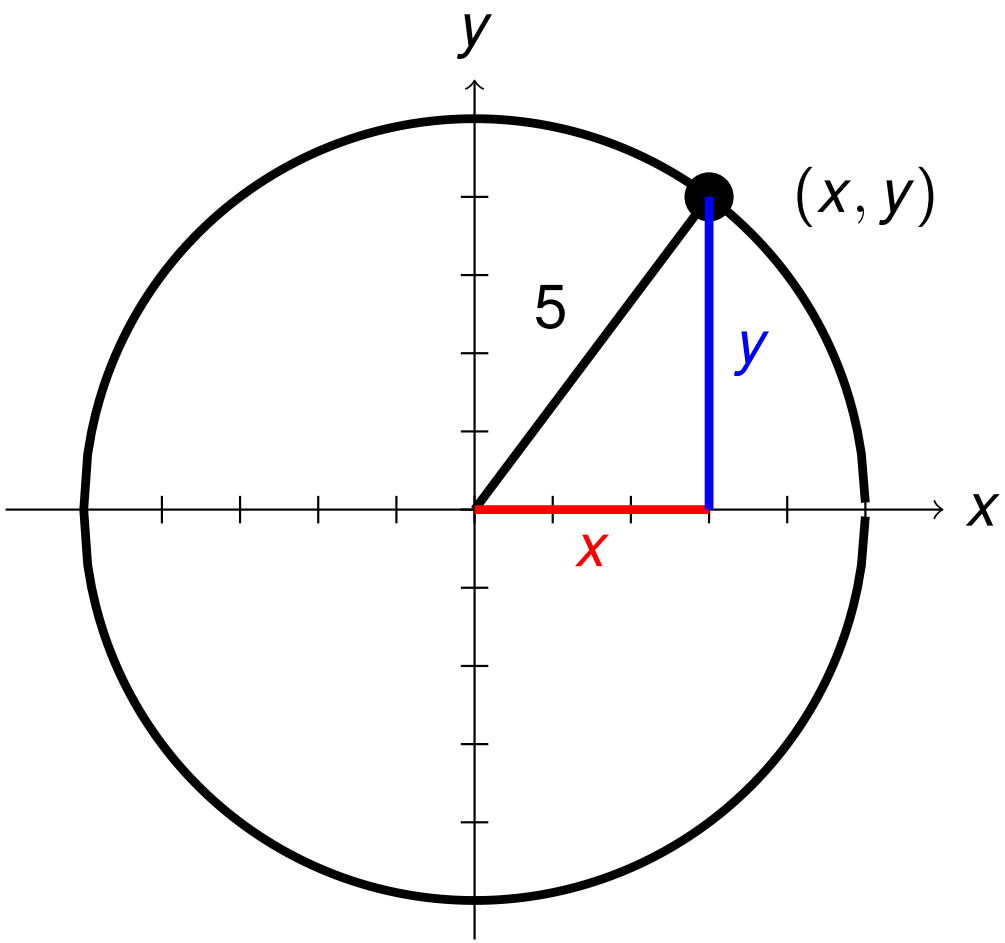
Circle centered at the origin



Circle centered at the origin

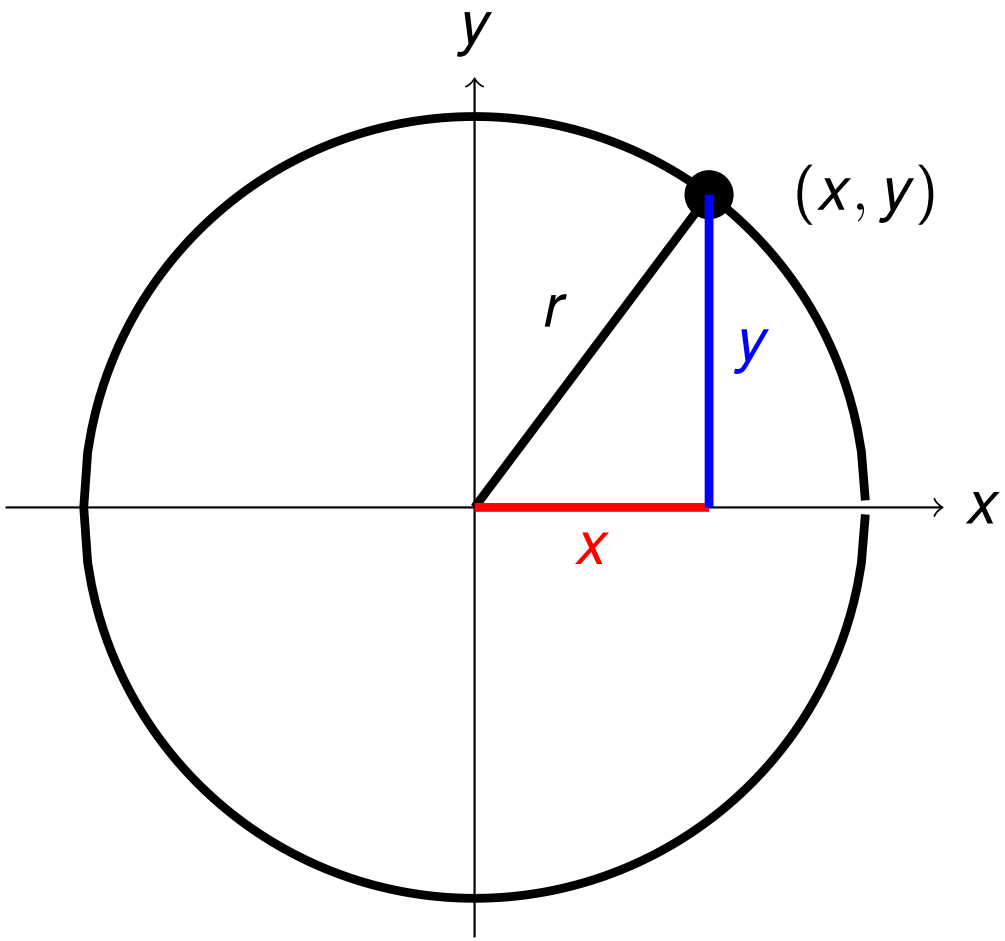


Circle centered at the origin



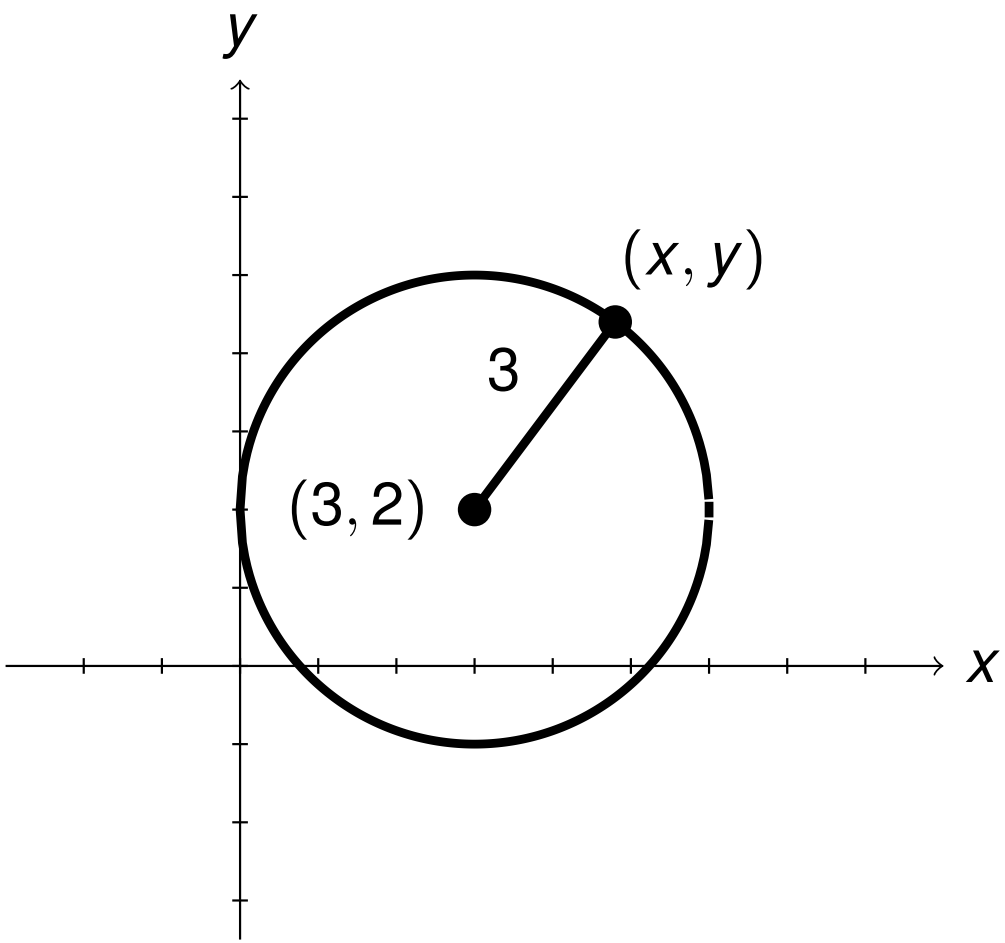
$$x^2 + y^2 = 25$$

Circle centered at the origin

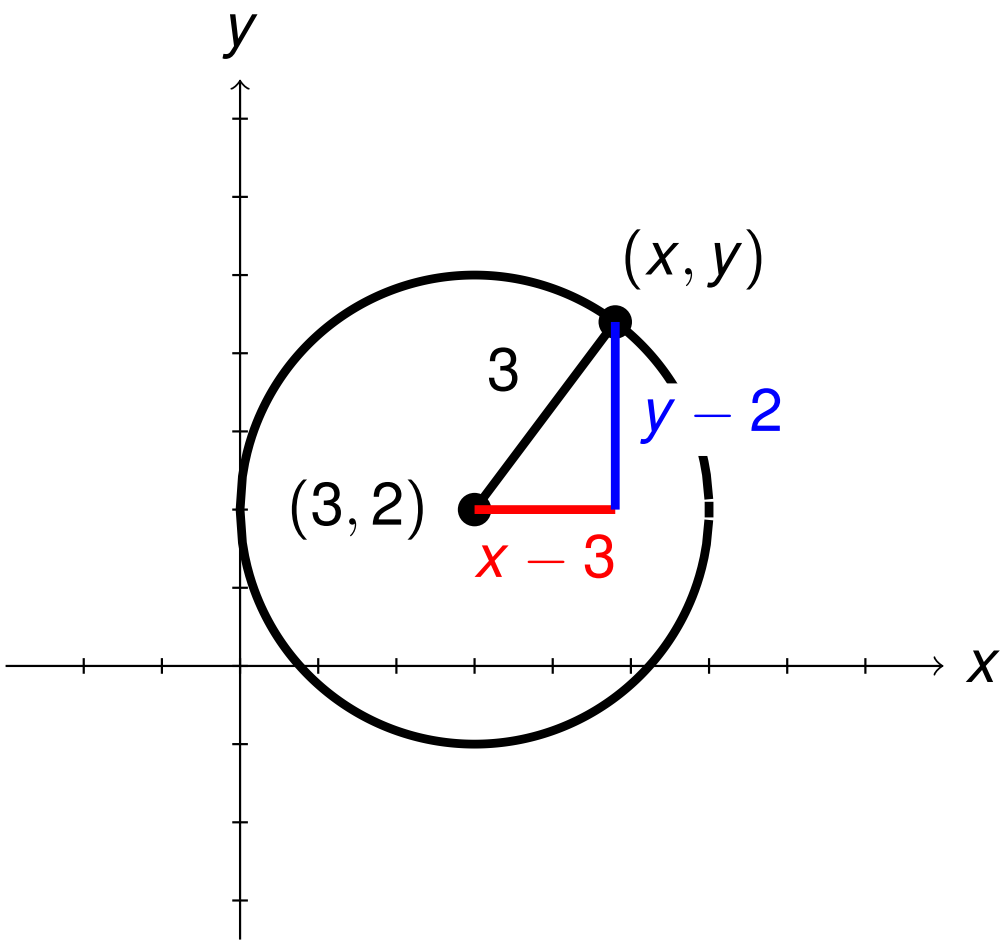


$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

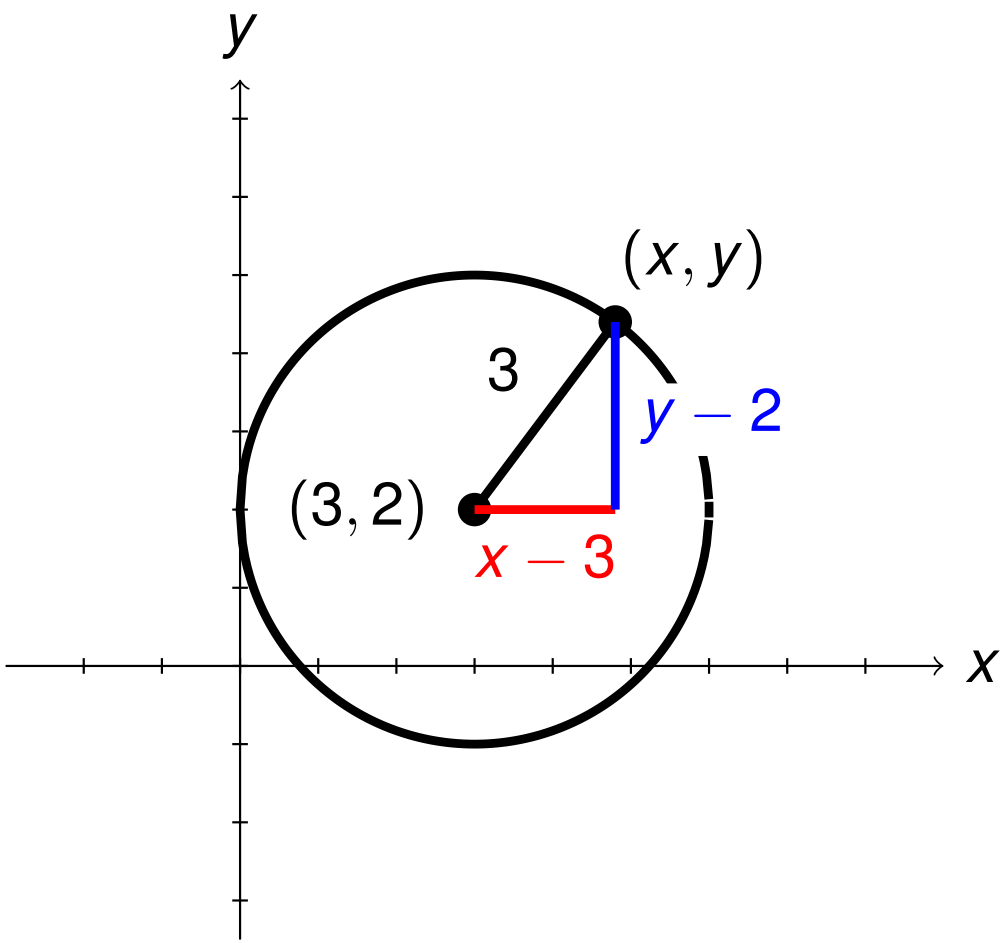
Center at (h, k)



Center at (h, k)

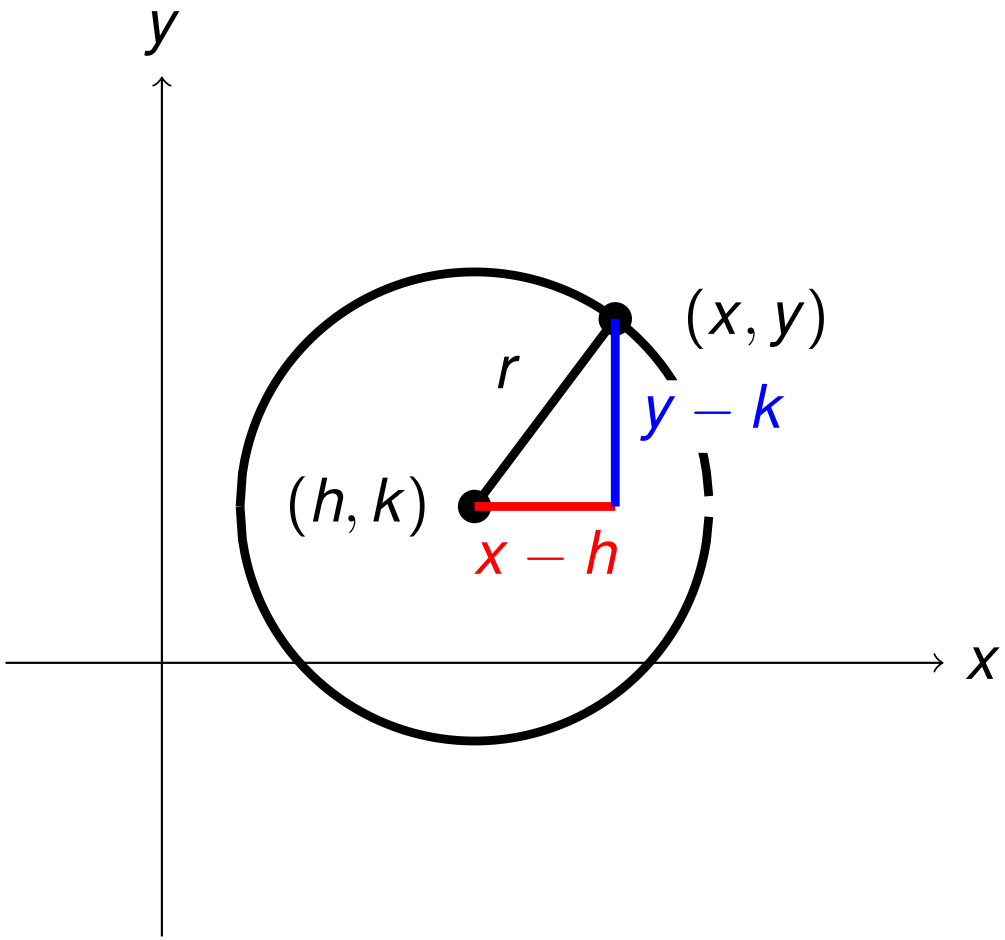


Center at (h, k)



$$(x-3)^2 + (y-2)^2 = 9$$

Center at (h, k)



$$(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

Recap

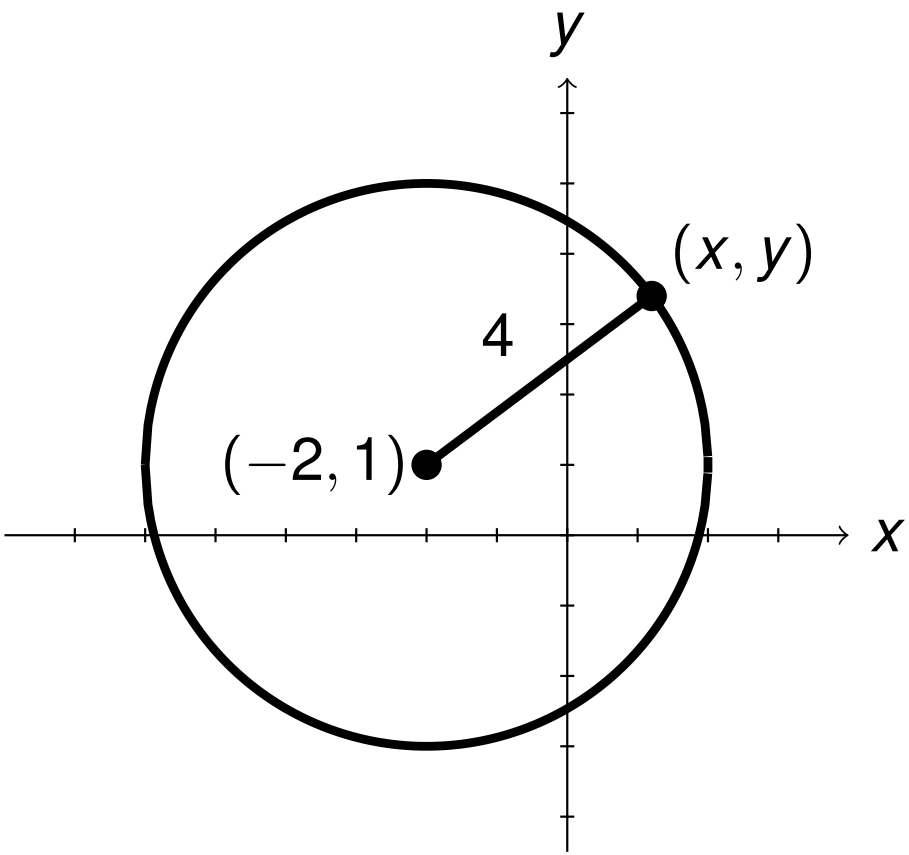
General Form of a Circle:

The circle with center at (h, k) and radius r has the equation

$$(x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2$$

Sample Problem 1

Find the equation of a circle with center at $(-2, 1)$ and radius 4.



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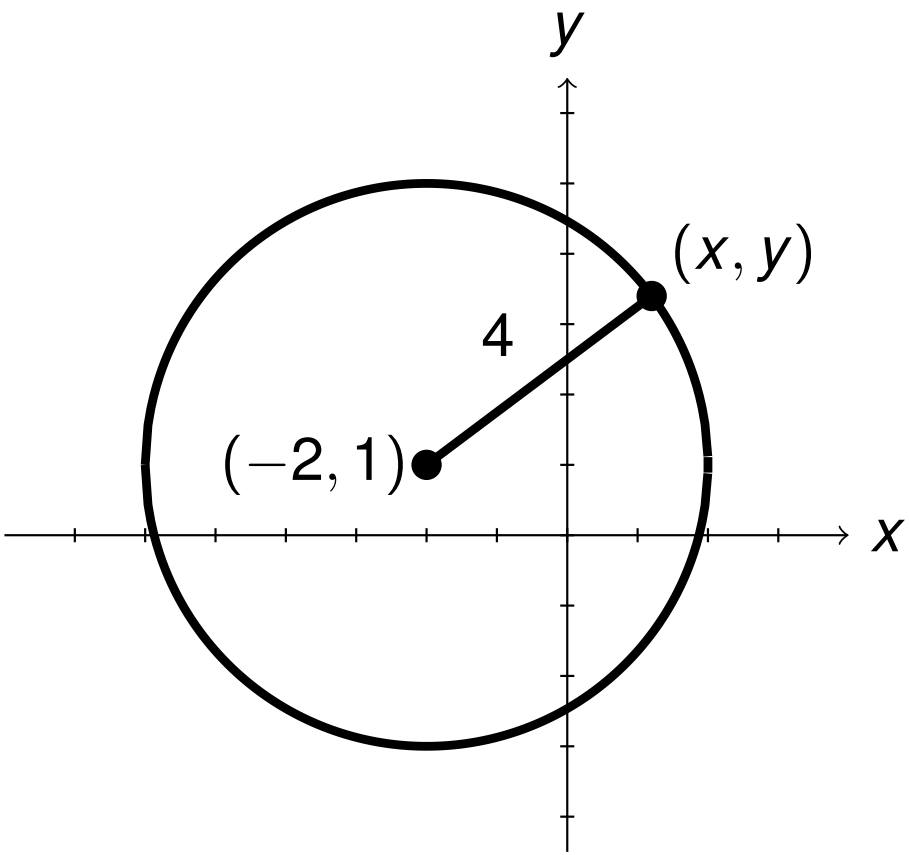

$$(x + 2)^2 + (y - 1)^2 = 16$$

Sample Problem 2

Find the center and radius of a circle given by the equation

$$(x+6)^2+(y+3)^2=4$$

Sample Problem 2

Find the center and radius of a circle given by the equation

$$(x+6)^2+(y+3)^2=4$$

Solution:

Center $=(-6,-3)$; Radius $=2$

Credits

Written by:	Mike Weimerskirch
Narration:	Mike Weimerskirch
Graphic Design:	Mike Weimerskirch

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