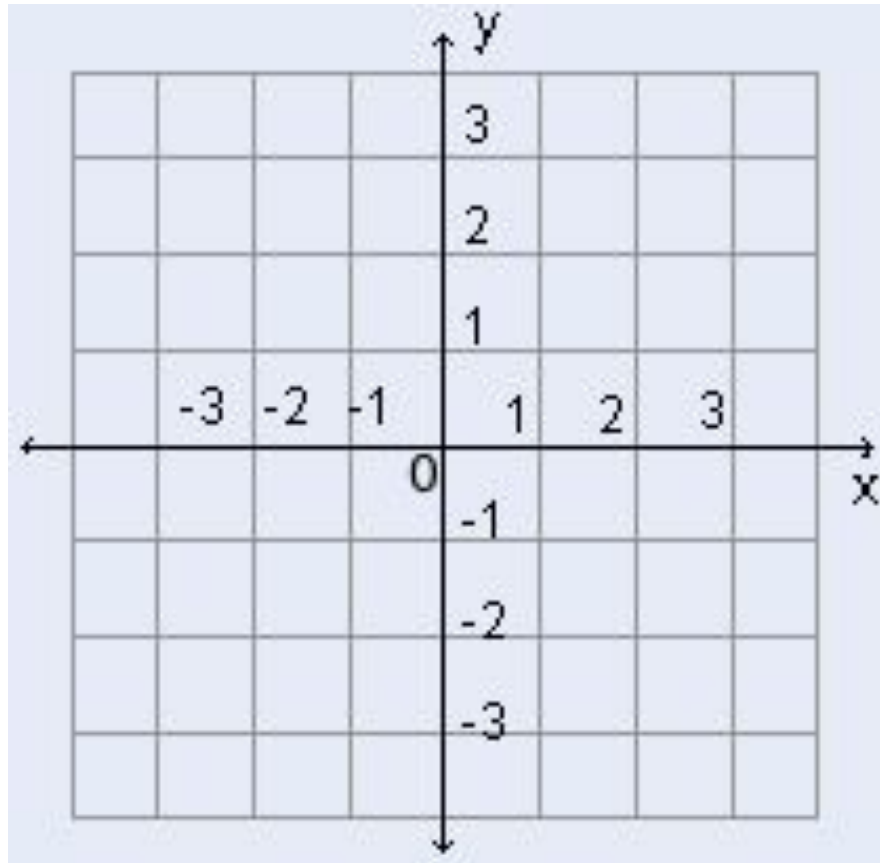# THE CARTESIAN PLANE

is a way to present coordinates of a point on a grid

THE CARTESIAN PLANE
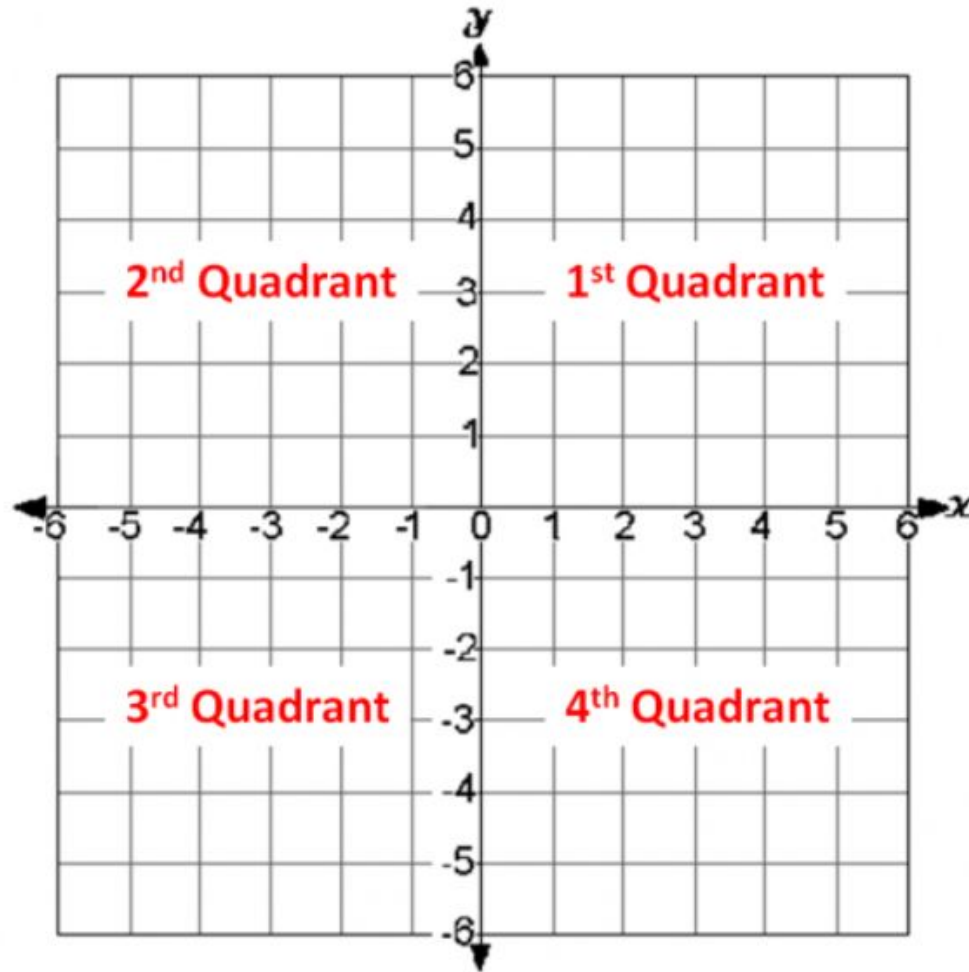
The Cartesian plane is named after the mathematician Rene Descartes (17th century)

It has:

- an horizontal line (named the "x-axis")
- a vertical line (named the "y-axis")
- a point where these lines cross (named "the origin" or "O")

Each point is represented by coordinates (x,y) (x always come first, then y)

The Cartesian plane is divided in four quadrants

THE CARTESIAN PLANE

example: plot the points (2,3), (-3,4), (1,-5), (-4,-3) on a Cartesian plane

For problems involving directions, the y-axis is labelled North-South, and the x-axis is labelled West-East.