

## The Shape of a Graph - Handout/Worksheet

- The Second Derivative Test** Let  $c$  be a critical point of  $f(x)$ . If  $f''(x)$  exists, then
  - $f''(c) > 0 \rightarrow f$  has a local minimum at  $c$ .
  - $f''(c) < 0 \rightarrow f$  has a local maximum at  $c$ .
  - $f''(c) = 0 \rightarrow$  inconclusive:  $f(c)$  may be a local max, local min, or neither.
- Definition:** A point  $P$  on a curve  $y = f(x)$  is called an *inflection point* if  $f$  is continuous there and the curve changes from concave up to concave down or vice versa.
- Find the points of inflection and intervals of concavity of  $f(x) = 3x^5 - 5x^4 + 1$ .