

Exponential Functions — 6.3

Exponential Function

$$f(x) = a^x, \quad a > 0 \text{ and } a \neq 1$$

Domain:

Horizontal Asymptote at $y = 0$. The horizontal asymptote will move up or down depending on a horizontal shift.

The **range** depends on the global behavior which can be determined by the horizontal asymptote and the sign of vertical stretch/compression factor, denoted by the letter b in your book..

All “basic” exponential functions contain the points $(0, 1)$ and $(1, a)$.

Exponential Growth Functions

$$f(x) = a^x, \quad a > 1$$

Domain:

Graph:

If $a > 1$, the graph is a “ shape : right side up” . **Range:**

In mathematical terms, this means: as $x \rightarrow \infty, f(x) \rightarrow \infty$ and as $x \rightarrow -\infty, f(x) \rightarrow 0^+$

Exponential Decay Functions

$$f(x) = a^x, \quad 0 < a < 1$$

Domain:

Graph:

If $0 < a < 1$, the graph is a “ shape : left side up” . **Range:**

In mathematical terms, this means: as $x \rightarrow \infty, f(x) \rightarrow 0^+$ and as $x \rightarrow -\infty, f(x) \rightarrow \infty$

- Graph the equation.

$$f(x) = 3^x$$

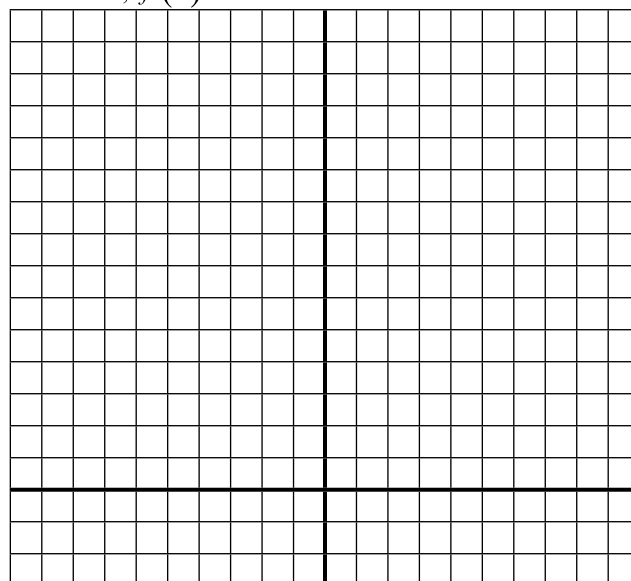
Domain:

Value of base:

Horizontal Asymptote:

Range:

Points:



2. Graph the equation.

$$f(x) = -3^{|x|} - 2$$

Domain:

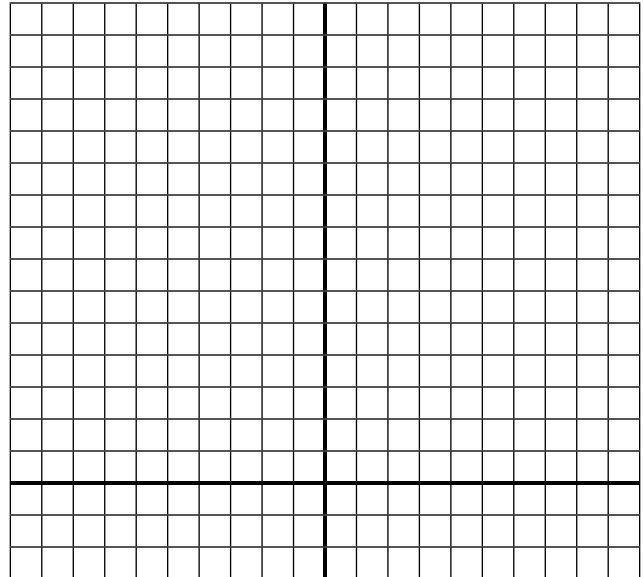
Value of base:

Horizontal Asymptote:

Transformations:

Range:

Points:



3. Graph the equation.

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{x-1}$$

Domain:

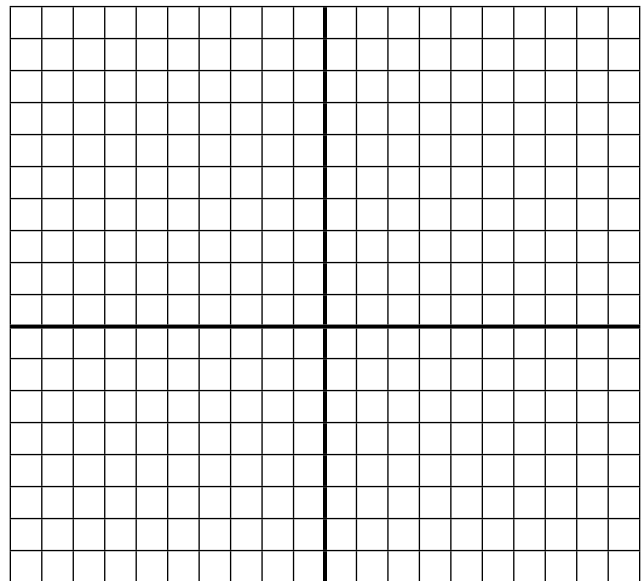
Value of base:

Horizontal Asymptote:

Transformations:

Range:

Points:



4. Graph the equation.

$$f(x) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-x} + 3$$

Domain:

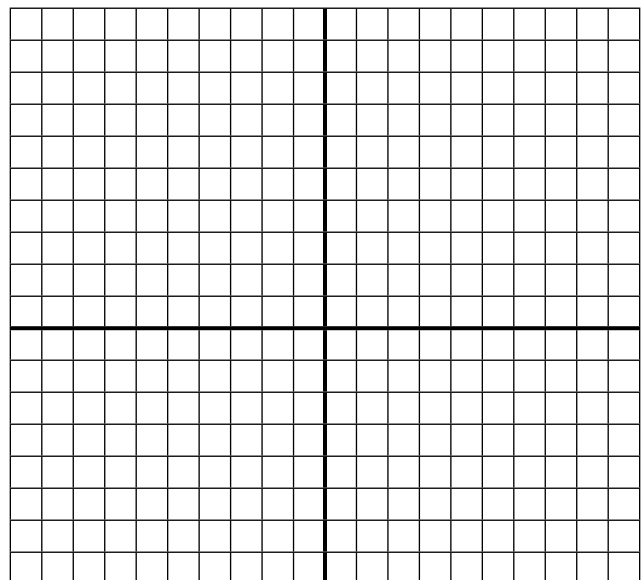
Value of base:

Horizontal Asymptote:

Transformations:

Range:

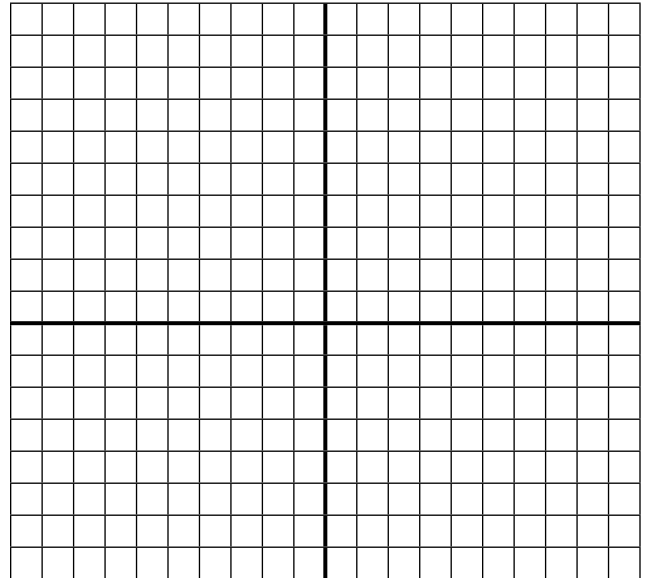
Points:



Find an exponential function of the form $f(x) = ba^x$ or $f(x) = ba^x + c$ that has the given graph or conditions.

5. y-intercept $(0, 4)$; passes through point $P(2, 16)$ and has a horizontal asymptote at $y = -1$

6. Graph the function



Exponential Functions Are One-to-One

The exponential function f given by $f(x) = a^x$ for $0 < a < 1$ or $a > 1$ is one-to-one. Thus, the following equivalent conditions are satisfied for real numbers x_1 and x_2

1. If $x_1 \neq x_2$, then $a^{x_1} \neq a^{x_2}$.
2. If $a^{x_1} = a^{x_2}$, then $x_1 = x_2$

Solve each equation.

7. $4^{x^2} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{3x}$

8. $25^x \times \left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^{4-2x} = \left(5^x\right)^3 \times 125$

Exponential Decay Applications

The **half-life** of a substance (or population) with an exponential decay is a defining characteristic. The half-life of a substance (or population) is the time it takes for one-half of the original amount in a given sample to decay. The half-life of an isotope distinguishes one isotope from another and is often used in carbon-dating of an object.

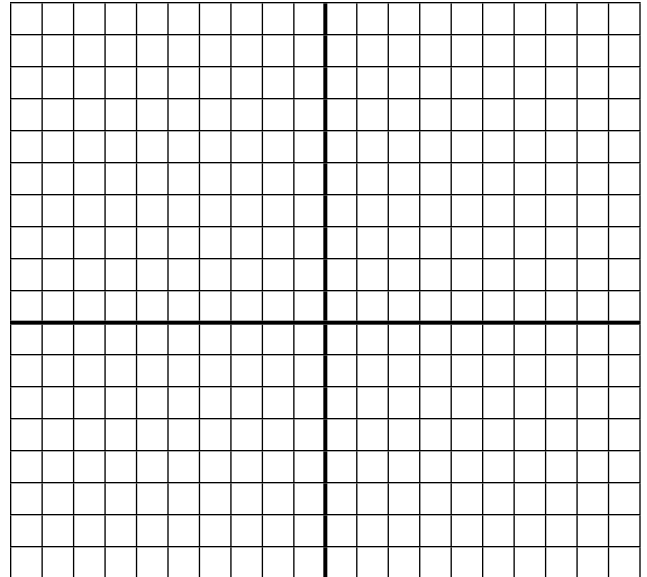
9. Exponential Decay

Let Q represent a mass of carbon 14 (in grams), whose half-life is 5730 years. The quantity of carbon 14 present after t years is given by $Q(t) = 10 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{t}{5730}}$.

a) Determine the initial quantity of carbon 14 (when $t = 0$).

b) Predict the amount of carbon 14 present after 2000 years.

c) Sketch a graph of $Q(t)$ at any time from $t = 0$ to $t = 10,000$.



Exponential Growth Applications

The **doubling-time** of a substance (or population) with an exponential growth is a defining characteristic. The doubling-time of a substance (or population) is the time it takes for the substance (or population) to double its original amount.

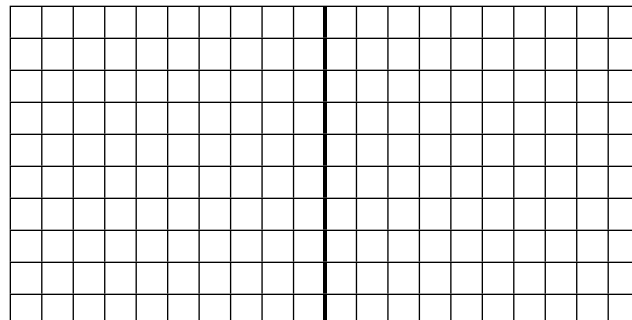
10. Exponential Growth

A certain type of bacterium increases according to the model $P(t) = 100 \left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^t$, where t is the time in hours.

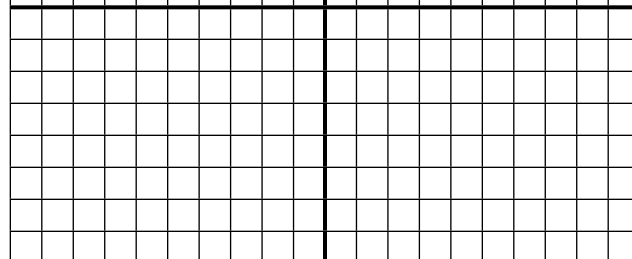
a) Determine the initial amount of bacterium.

b) Predict the amount of bacterium after 5 hours.

c) Sketch a graph of $P(t)$ at any time from $t = 0$ to $t = 10$.



d) Use the above graph to estimate the doubling-time of $P(t)$.



11. **Exponential Modeling**

In a research experiment, a population of fruit flies is increasing at an exponential growth rate. Initially there are 30 fruit flies. After 2 days, there are 100 flies.

a) Find a simple exponential function $y = ba^x$ that models the population of the fruit flies after x days.

b) Use the above model to predict the number of fruit flies after 10 days.