

U4D8_T Applications - Exponential Growth and Decay Problems

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U4D8_T
Applicatio...

U4D8 Warm Up:

A bacteria colony doubles every minute. If there are 10 bacteria in the colony initially, how many are there in 9 minutes?

You can fill in the table, doubling the previous value each time until 9 minutes have gone by @ you may notice the pattern so you can skip ahead to the 9th minute.

(mins) time	number of bacteria
0	10
1	$20 = 10 \times 2$
2	$40 = (10 \times 2) \times 2$
3	$80 = (10 \times 2 \times 2) \times 2$
...	
9	$10 \times 2^9 = 5120$

In general, for exponential growth / decay problems: $f(x) = a(b)^x$
where,

$f(x)$ is the FINAL value (y-value, for a given x-value)

a is the INITIAL value (y-intercept on graph)

b is the GROWTH FACTOR (if $b > 1$) OR

the DECAY FACTOR (if $0 < b < 1$)

x is the number of GROWTH or DECAY periods

↳ NOTE: If population is doubling every 5 years and t is in years then $x = \frac{t}{5}$

Important Notes:

If a growth rate is given (as a percent), then the base of the power in the equation (b) can be obtained by adding or subtracting the rate (as a decimal) from 1.

ex. A growth rate of 18% involves multiplying repeatedly by 1.18

$\approx 118\% = 1.18$

Also, the units for the growth and decay rate and for the number of growth and decay periods MUST BE THE SAME!

ex. monthly interest rate of 0.05%, the growth period needs to be in months too!

Growth Problem *At the end of the first year (in 2010) there is the initial 7500 people + 5% of 7500. In other words we have the original 100% + another 5% total*

1. Maryville had a population of about 7500 people in 2009. It is expected that the town's population will increase 5% each year.

a. What is the initial population? **7500**

b. What is the growth rate, r ? **5%/yr** → **Growth FACTOR**
 $105\% = 1 + 0.05 = 1.05$

c. Write the algebraic model for this situation using the above information. Include let statements.

$P(t) = 7500(1.05)^t$, where P is the population t years after 2009.

d. Use the model to predict the population in 2018.

$t = 2018 - 2009$
 $t = 9$
 $P(9) = 7500(1.05)^9$
 $P(9) = 11634.96$

\therefore we would expect 11634 people in 2018.

e. In approximately what year will Maryville double its current population, assuming it continues to grow at this rate? Predict to the nearest tenth of a year.

$7500(1.05)^t = 15000$ (OP) $1.05^t = 2$

t	$P(t)$
15	15591.96...
13	14142.36...
14	14849.
14.2	14995...
14.3	15068...

** to solve for t it is just trial and error on your calculator.*

$7500 \times 1.05 \sqrt[15]{15} =$

\therefore the population would be double after about 14.2 years (in $2009 + 14 = 2023$)

Decay Problems

2. A 200g sample of radioactive polonium-210 has a half-life of 138 days. This means that every 138 days, the amount of polonium left in a sample is half of the original amount.

initial sample
base of exponential is 1/2
 $x = \frac{t}{138}$, t in days

- a. What is the rate of decay? *-50% every 138 days* *Decay FACTOR* $1 - 0.5 = 0.5$
 b. Determine an equation to model this situation. Include let statements.

$M(t) = 200(0.5)^{t/138}$ where
 M is the mass remaining (g), after t days.

- c. Determine the mass that remains after 5 years.

$t = 5 \times 365 + 1$

$t = 1825 + 1$

$t = 1826$

1 leap year in a five year span

$M(1826) = 200(0.5)^{\frac{1826}{138}}$

$M(1826) \approx 0.02$

\therefore about 0.02g remains after 5 years.

- d. How much polonium-210 was there 414 days ago?

$t = -414$ days

$M(-414) = 200(0.5)^{-414/138}$

$M(-414) = 1600$

\therefore there was 1600g 414 days ago.

- e. Use your model to predict how long it would take for this 200g sample to decay to 110g.

$\rightarrow 200(0.5)^{t/138} = 110$

** to solve for t it is trial & error on your calculator.*

t	M(t)
120	109.46
119	110.01 ←

After 119 days, there is about 110g remaining.

3. A new car costs \$24,000. It loses 18% of its value each year after it is purchased. This is called depreciation.

-18%
decay rate = 18%/yr *decay factor = 1 - 0.18 = 0.82*

- a. Write an equation that models the decay/decline of the investment. Include let statements.

$V(t) = 24000(0.82)^t$, where \$V\$ is value of the car after t years.

- b. Use the equation to determine the value of the automobile after 20

value of the car after t years.

- b. Use the equation to determine the value of the automobile after 30 months.

$$t = \frac{30}{12} \quad V(2.5) = 24000 (0.82)^{2.5}$$

$$t = 2.5 \quad V(2.5) = 14613.22$$

\therefore the car would be worth about \$14613.22 after 30 months.

- c. If the car was purchased June 3, 2015, during what month would the car's value first fall below \$10,000?

$$24000 (0.82)^t < 10000$$

t	$V(t)$
5	8897
3	13232
4.5	9825.9
4.3	10223
4.4	10022
4.42	9983
4.43	9963
4.41	10003

* trial and error on calculator.

4 years, 5.04 months
 \Rightarrow November
 \downarrow
 is 5 months after June

$$\frac{0.42}{12} = 5.04 \text{ months.}$$

\therefore in November, 2019 the value would first fall below \$10,000.