

Representing Exponential Relationships Symbolically

1. The population of fish in a local stream is decreasing at an alarming rate. The original population was 48,000. After 1 year, the population was 28,800. After the 2nd year the population was 17,280. Write an exponential function, $P(t)$ that models this situation where t represents time in years. If this trend continues, how many fish are expected to be living in the stream after the 10th year?

$$a = 48,000$$

$$b = 0.6$$

$$28,800/48,000 = 0.6$$

$$p(t) = 48,000(0.6)^t$$

t	p(t)
0	48,000
1	28,800
2	17,280

$$p(t) = 48,000(0.6)^t$$

$$p(10) = 48,000(0.6)^{10}$$

$$= 290.2376448\dots$$

About 290 fish will be left in the stream after 10 years.

2. A painting is sold to an art gallery. Over time, the painting increases in value exponentially. After 1 year, the painting is worth \$1540. After the second year, the painting is worth \$1694. Write an exponential function that models this situation. What will the painting be worth after seven years?

$$a = 1400$$

$$b = 1.1$$

$$1694/1540 = 1.1$$

$$1540/1.1 = 1400$$

$$f(x) = 1400(1.1)^x$$

x	f(x)
0	?
1	1540
2	1694

$$f(x) = 1400(1.1)^x$$

$$f(7) = 1400(1.1)^7$$

$$= 2728.20394\dots$$

The painting will be worth about \$2728.20 after seven years.

3. The breakdown of a sample of a chemical compound is represented by the function $p(t) = 300(0.5)^t$, where $p(t)$ represents the number of milligrams of the substance and t represents the time, in years. In the function $p(t)$, explain what 0.5 and 300 represent.

a = 300 *initial value*

b = 0.5 *common ratio*

There is **300 mg** of the chemical compound to start with (*no time has passed*).

As each year passes, **half the amount** of the compound is left.

4. Write an exponential function that models the table of values below.

x	0	1	2	3	4
f(x)	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	4	16	64

a = $\frac{1}{4}$ *y-int.*

b = 4 *common ratio*

$$f(x) = ab^x$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{4} (4)^x$$



Equivalent Function

Geometric Sequence Rule

$$a_n = a_1 \cdot r^{n-1}$$

$$f(x) = 1 \cdot 4^{x-1}$$