

## 4-2 Exponential Equations

4-2a: I can use exponential formulas to model and solve situations of growth and decay.

## EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION

$$f(x) = a(b)^x \leftarrow \text{Exponent}$$

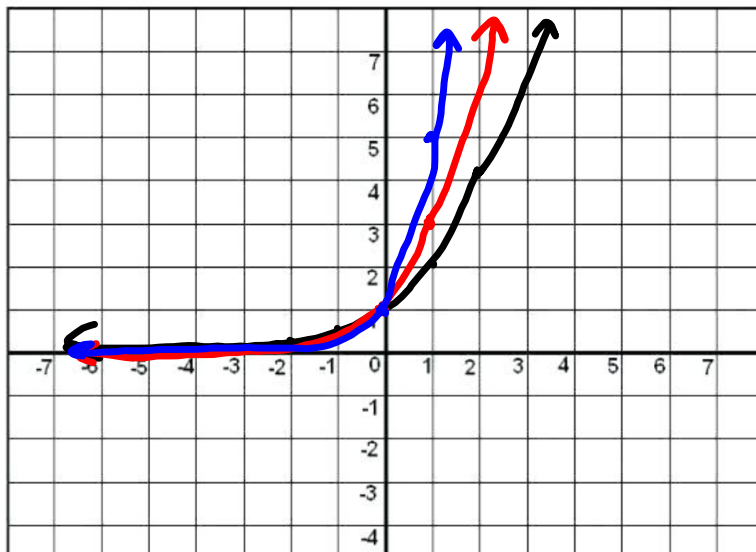
Initial Value  
(y-intercept)

Base  
(Multiplier)

The diagram shows the exponential function  $f(x) = a(b)^x$ . An arrow points from the text 'Exponent' to the variable  $x$ . Another arrow points from the text 'Initial Value (y-intercept)' to the coefficient  $a$ . A third arrow points from the text 'Base (Multiplier)' to the base  $b$ .

$$f(x) = 2^x$$

$x$	$2^x$
-2	0.25
-1	0.5
0	1
1	2
2	4



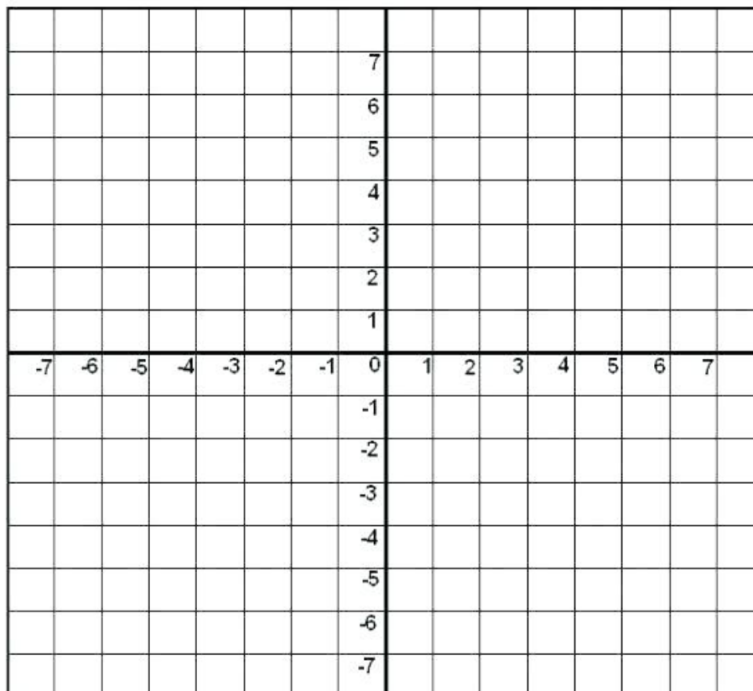
Rule: as  $b$  increases, my function grows  
 more quickly / is more steep.

Rule: as b increases, my function grows  
*more quickly / is more steep.*

$$f(x) = a(b)^x$$

Initial Value (y-intercept)      Base (Multiplier)      Exponent

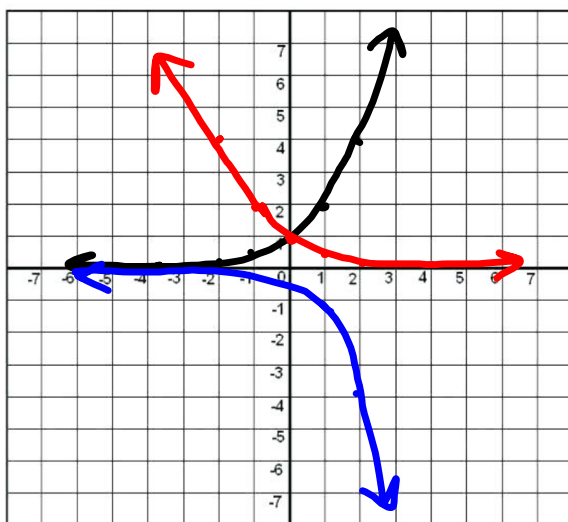
$$f(x) = 2^x$$



Graph the following functions on a calculator and sketch.

$$f(x) = 2^x$$

$$2^x$$



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

What did you notice about the graphs and their equations?

Is it a "reflection"? Why or why not? *Not a reflection caused by  $-$ .*

When  $b > 1$ , the function represents **exponential growth**

When  $0 < b < 1$ , the function represents **exponential decay**

$$f(x) = 1^x$$

## Exponential Growth and Decay

$$f(t) = a(1 \pm r)^t$$

$f(t)$  = value of the function after time ( $t$ )

$a$  = initial value

$r$  = interest rate (written in decimal form)

$t$  = time (in years unless otherwise stated)



John researches a baseball card and find that it is currently worth \$3.25. However, it is supposed to increase in value 11% per year.  $f(t) = a(1 \pm r)^t$   $(1+0.11)$

$$0.11 = r$$

a) Write an exponential equation to represent this situation

$$f(t) = 3.25(1.11)^t$$

b) How much will the card be worth in 10 years?

$$= 3.25(1.11)^{10} = 9.23$$

c) Use your graphing calculator to determine in how many years will the card be worth \$26.

On federal income tax returns, self employed people can depreciate the value of business equipment. Suppose a computer valued at \$2765 **depreciates** at a rate of 30% per year.  $f(t) = a(1 \pm r)^t$

- a) Write an exponential equation to model this situation
  
- b) How much will this computer be worth in 5 years?
  
- c) Use your graphing calculator to determine in how many years will the computer be worth \$350.

The population of Orem in 1950 was 4,000 and was increasing at a rate of 2.6% per year.

a) Predict the population of Orem in 1975 and 2000.

b) Using your graphing calculator, predict when Orem's population will hit 200,000 people.

You try! 😊

As a birthday present you received a pair of track shoes signed by Mr. Myrup that is valued at \$500 (ya know cause he's so awesome). Over time the value increases at a rate 5.5% per year.

- a) Write an exponential equation to represent the situation.
  
- b) How much will the shoes be worth after 7 years?
  
- c) How long until they are worth \$1000?

## Compound Interest Formula

$$A(t) = P \left( 1 + \frac{r}{n} \right)^{nt}$$

$A(t)$  is the value after time ( $t$ )

$P$  is the principal

$r$  is the annual interest rate

$n$  is the number of compounding periods per year

$t$  is the time in years

Write an equation then find the final amount for each investment.

- a. \$1000 at 8% compounded semiannually for 15 years

$$A(t) = P \left( 1 + \frac{r}{n} \right)^{nt}$$

You Try!

- b. \$1750 at 3.65% compounded daily for 10 years

Using a calculator, determine how many years it will take for the amount to reach \$4000.

Write an equation then find the final amount for each investment.

- a) An investment of \$1000 compounded monthly at a rate of 4.5%.
- b) How much money is there after 5 years?
- c) How long until the investment has tripled its value?

Investigate the growth of \$1 investment that earns 100% annual interest ( $r=1$ ) over 1 year as the number of compounding periods,  $n$ , increases. **Do this with a group/partner.**

Compounding schedule	$n$	$1\left(1+\frac{1}{n}\right)^n$	Value of A
annually	1		
semiannually	2		
quarterly	4		
monthly	12		
daily	365		
hourly	8760		
every minute	525600		

What does the value of A approach?



The value  $e$  is called the natural base

The exponential function with base  $e$ ,  $f(x)=e^x$ , is called the natural exponential function.

$$e \approx 2.71828182827$$

what you need to know is  $e \approx 2.7$

Evaluate  $f(x) = e^x$  for

a.  $x = 2$

b.  $x = \frac{1}{2}$

c.  $x = -1$

Many banks compound the interest on accounts daily or monthly. However, some banks compound interest continuously, or at every instant, by using the *continuous compounding formula*.

### Continuous Compounding Formula

If  $P$  dollars are invested at an interest rate  $r$ , that is compounded continuously, then the amount,  $A$ , of the investment at time  $t$  is given by

$$A(t) = Pe^{rt}$$

A person invests \$1550 in an account that earns 4% annual interest compounded continuously.

- a. Write an equation to represent this situation
- b. Using a calculator, find when the value of the investment reaches \$2000.

An investment of \$1000 earns an annual interest rate of 7.6%.

Compare the final amounts after 8 years for interest *compounded quarterly* and for interest *compounded continuously*.