

## Objective 3 - Construct Log/Exp Models

Link to textbook: Construct a model equation for the real-life situation.

You can print out [these notes](#) to follow along with the video below and keep notes to organize your thoughts.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUL7SUcfXJE>

**Question 1** A population of bacteria **triples** every hours. If the culture started with 300, write the equation that models the bacteria population after  $t$  hours.

$$P(t) = \boxed{300} \boxed{3}^{\boxed{t}}$$

**Question 2** There is initially 172 grams of element  $X$ . The half-life of element  $X$  is 142393 years. Describe the amount of element  $X$  remaining as a function of time,  $t$ , in years. Use  $e$  as the base of your exponential model and exact values.

$$X(t) = \boxed{172} e^{\boxed{-\frac{1}{142393} \log(2) t}}$$

**Hint:** The exponent's coefficient is not  $\frac{1}{142393}$  nor is it  $\frac{-1}{142393}$ . To find the correct coefficient, take the base exponential equation current amount = initial amount  $e^{ct}$ , use what you know about the half-life time and amount, then solve the equation for  $c$ . If you are having trouble, refer back to the objective on "Solving exponential equations". Do not use a calculator - use exact values to get a correct answer.

**Question 3** The half-life of carbon-14 is 5,730 years.

**Part A.** Describe the amount of carbon-14 remaining after  $t$  years. The initial amount of carbon-14,  $C_0$ , is already included below.

$$C = C_0 * \boxed{e^{-0.000120968094338559t}}$$

Learning outcomes:  
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**Part B.** Solve the equation above for  $t$  written in terms of the ratio of carbon-14 remaining,  $r = \frac{C}{C_0}$ .

$$t = \boxed{-8266.64258429376} \ln(\boxed{r})$$

**Part C.** The equation above is used to carbon-date objects. To solidify this idea, use the model in Part B. to solve the following problem.

A bone fragment is found that contains 23% of its original carbon-14. To the nearest year, how old is the bone?

$\boxed{12149}$  years old

**Hint:** **Part A.** The exponent's coefficient is not  $\frac{1}{5730}$  nor is it  $\frac{-1}{5730}$ . To find the correct coefficient, take the base exponential equation  $\text{current amount} = \text{initial amount } e^{ct}$ , use what you know about the half-life time and amount, then solve the equation for  $c$ . If you are having trouble, refer back to the objective on "Solving exponential equations". Do not use a calculator - use exact values to get a correct answer.

**Part B.** Now that you found the exponent's coefficient, you have modeled the general equation as  $C = C_0 e^{ct}$ . Since it asks you to rewrite the equation in terms of  $r = \frac{C}{C_0}$ , start by converting the equation into one with  $r$  instead of  $C$  and  $C_0$ . Then, solve the equation for  $t$ .

**Part C.** What does  $r = \frac{C}{C_0}$  represent? If we know this, then we could use the equation you built in Part B. to solve for the age of the bone.