

## Objective 3 - Construct Log/Exp Models

Link to textbook: [Construct a model equation for the real-life situation.](#)

Videos:

- [pH](#)
- [Age using Half-Life](#)
- [Doubling time growth pt. 1](#)
- [Doubling time growth pt. 2](#)
- [Radioactive Decay and Law of Cooling](#)

**Question 1** A population of bacteria **quadruples** every hours. If the culture started with 400, write the equation that models the bacteria population after  $t$  hours.

$$P(t) = \boxed{400} \boxed{4}^{\boxed{t}}$$

**Question 2** There is initially 976 grams of element  $X$ . The half-life of element  $X$  is 895520 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.

$$X(t) = \boxed{976} e^{\boxed{-\frac{1}{895520} \log(2) t}}$$

**Hint:** The exponent's coefficient is not  $\frac{1}{895520}$  nor is it  $\frac{-1}{895520}$ . 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.

Learning outcomes:  
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**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.

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

**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 65% of its original carbon-14. To the nearest year, how old is the bone?

$$\boxed{3561} \text{ years old}$$

**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.