

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 ?? every hours. If the culture started with ??, write the equation that models the bacteria population after t hours.

$$P(t) = \boxed{??} \boxed{??}^{\boxed{t}}$$

Question 2 There is initially ?? grams of element X . The half-life of element X is ?? 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.

$$X(t) = \boxed{??} e^{\boxed{??}t}$$

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

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

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

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

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

$$t = \boxed{??} \ln(\boxed{r})$$

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

$\boxed{??}$ 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.