

1. Solve for  $x$  in following equations. Your answers should be simplified and have no log expressions.

1a.  $16^{x+2} = 2^x$

**Solution:**

$$16^{x+2} = 2^x$$

$$(2^4)^{x+2} = 2^x$$

$$2^{4(x+2)} = 2^x$$

$$4(x+2) = x$$

$$4x + 8 = x$$

$$3x = -8$$

$$x = -\frac{8}{3}$$

Write both sides as powers of 2.

Exponents must be equal.

1b.  $27 \cdot 9^x = 3^{1-x}$

**Solution:**

$$27 \cdot 9^x = 3^{1-x}$$

$$3^3 \cdot (3^2)^x = 3^{1-x}$$

$$3^{3+2x} = 3^{1-x}$$

$$3 + 2x = 1 - x$$

$$3 + 3x = 1$$

$$3x = -2$$

$$x = -\frac{2}{3}$$

1c.  $\log_3(x^2) - \log_3(x^2 - 2) = 1$

**Solution:** Note that we must first apply the log rule  $\log_a\left(\frac{M}{N}\right) = \log_a(M) - \log_a(N)$ .

$$\log_3\left(\frac{x^2}{x^2 - 2}\right) = 1$$

$$\frac{x^2}{x^2 - 2} = 3^1$$

$$x^2 = 3x^2 - 6$$

$$0 = 2x^2 - 6$$

$$0 = x^2 - 3$$

$$x^2 = 3$$

$$x = \pm\sqrt{3}$$

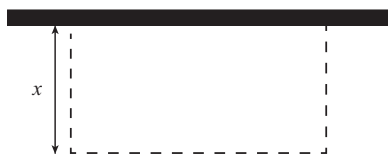
We need to check our answers by plugging them back into the original equation (remember that the log function is only defined over positive numbers).

$$\log_3 \left[ (-\sqrt{3})^2 \right] - \log_3 \left[ (-\sqrt{3})^2 - 2 \right] = \log_3 3 - \log_3 1 = 1 - 0 = 1$$

$$\log_3 \left[ (\sqrt{3})^2 \right] - \log_3 \left[ (\sqrt{3})^2 - 2 \right] = \log_3 3 - \log_3 1 = 1 - 0 = 1$$

Thus, both  $x = \sqrt{3}$  and  $x = -\sqrt{3}$  are valid solutions to our equation.

**2.** A gardener has 100 ft of fencing wishes to construct a rectangular enclosure with one side along a 200 ft building and the other three sides using fencing material as show below. Assume that all the fencing material are used in the construction.



**2a.** Let  $x$  be the length of the side of the enclosure as shown. Find the area of the enclosure in terms of  $x$ .

**Solution:** Let  $y$  be the length of the third side of the enclosure. Then we know:

$$A = xy$$

$$P = 2x + y = 100$$

From the second equation we obtain  $y = 100 - 2x$ . Substituting this back into the equation for area, we obtain  $A = x(100 - 2x) = -2x^2 + 100x$ .

**2b.** Find the dimensions (Length and Width) of the enclosure where the area enclosed is maximum. What is the maximum area.

**Solution:** Our equation for the area is a parabola which opens down. Thus the maximum occurs at the vertex of the parabola. We find this vertex by completing the square. We know that if the equation of a parabola is in the form  $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$ , then this parabola has vertex  $(x, k)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} A &= -2x^2 + 100x \\ &= -2(x^2 - 50x) \\ &= -2(x^2 - 50x + (-25)^2) + -2(-25)^2 \\ &= -2(x - 25)^2 + 1250 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the vertex of the parabola is  $(25, 1250)$ . This means that the value of  $x$  where the enclosed area is maximum is  $x = 25 \text{ ft}$ . Plugging in  $x = 25$  into the equation for  $y$ , we obtain  $y = 100 - 2x = 100 - 2(25) = 50 \text{ ft}$ . Thus the dimensions where the area enclosed is maximum are  $25 \text{ ft} \times 50 \text{ ft}$  and this maximum area is  $1250 \text{ ft}^2$ .

$$\text{Dimensions: } = 25 \text{ ft} \times 50 \text{ ft}$$

$$\text{Maximum Area: } = 1250 \text{ ft}^2$$

### The Richter scale

$$\text{Richter value} = \log_{10} \left( \frac{x}{A} \right),$$

where  $A$  is the amplitude of the seismic wave of a reference earthquake and  $x$  is the amplitude of the seismic wave of the earthquake in question.

**3.** One of the worst earthquakes in history occurred in Tokyo and registered 8.3 on the Richter scale. A more recent earthquake in California in 1989 registered 7.2. How much more severe was the earthquake in Tokyo in terms of the amplitude of its seismic wave?

**Solution:** We can solve for the amplitude of the seismic wave of each earthquake. Note that our answers are in terms of the constant  $A$ , the magnitude of the reference earthquake.

$$\text{Tokyo Earthquake: } 8.3 = \log_{10} \left( \frac{x}{A} \right)$$

$$10^{8.3} = \frac{x}{A}$$

$$x = A \cdot 10^{8.3}$$

$$\text{Earthquake: } 7.2 = \log_{10} \left( \frac{x}{A} \right)$$

$$10^{7.2} = \frac{x}{A}$$

$$x = A \cdot 10^{7.2}$$

Now, we compare the magnitudes of the two earthquakes:

$$\frac{\text{Magnitude of Tokyo Earthquake}}{\text{Magnitude of California Earthquake}} = \frac{A \cdot 10^{8.3}}{A \cdot 10^{7.2}} = 10^{1.1} \approx 12.5893$$

Thus, the Tokyo earthquake was about 12.5893 times stronger than California Earthquake.