

Exponential Growth and Decay Word Problems

1. A population increases at each rate shown. Determine the growth factor for each rate of growth.
a) 12% b) 6% c) 3.4% d) 8.2% e) 10.5%
2. A population has each growth factor. What is the rate of growth as a percent?
a) 1.2 b) 1.05 c) 1.025 d) 1.004 e) 1.15
3. A population decreases at each rate shown. Determine the decay factor for each rate of decrease.
a) 12% b) 6% c) 3.4% d) 8.2% e) 10.5%
4. A population has each decay factor. What is the percent decrease in the population?
a) 0.8 b) 0.95 c) 0.975 d) 0.96 e) 0.45
5. The population, P million, of Alberta can be modelled by the equation $P = 2.238(1.014)^n$, where n is the number of years since 1981.
 - a. What was the population of Alberta in 1981?
 - b. At what annual rate, as a percent, has Alberta's population been increasing since 1981.
 - c. Estimate the population in 2021. What assumption did you make?
 - d. What factors might affect the accuracy of the model's estimation of the population?
6. Ontario's population in 1991 was approximately 10.1 million. The population has been increasing at a rate of 1.25% per year.
 - a. Write an equation to represent the population of Ontario, y , people, as a function of the number of years, x , since 1991.
 - b. Suppose the population continues to grow at this rate. Estimate the population in 2041.
7. A strain of bacteria doubles every hour. Suppose there were 4000 bacteria at the start.
 - a. Write an equation to represent y , the number of bacteria x hours from now.
 - b. How many bacteria would be present after each time?
 - i) 4h ii) 6h iii) 9h
8. Mei Lin invested \$600 in a GIC for several years. The interest rate was 5% compounded annually.
 - a. Write an equation to represent the value, y dollars, of the GIC x years from now.
 - b. Use the equation from part a. What is the value of the GIC after 7 years?

9. A new car decreases in value exponentially after it is purchased. The value, V dollars, of a new car n years after it is purchased is given by the equation $V = 20000(0.84)^n$.
- What was the purchase price of the car?
 - By what percent does the value of the car decrease each year?
 - Estimate the value of the car 6 years after it was purchased.
10. There are currently 1000 deer in a provincial park. Write an equation to represent y , the number of deer in the park x years from now, when the population decreases at a rate of 3% per year.
11. When light passes through ice, its intensity is reduced by 4% for every 1 cm thickness of ice.
- Write an equation to express the percent of light, y , that penetrates x centimetres of ice.
 - What percent of light penetrates a sheet of ice 4.5 cm thick?
12. A ball is dropped from a height of 4 m. After each bounce, the ball rises to 50% of its previous height.
- What is the height of the ball after the third bounce?
 - After how many bounces will the ball's height be 0.125 m? (HINT: find the same base to solve)

Answers:

1a) 1.12	b) 1.06	c) 1.034	d) 1.082	e) 1.105
2a) 20%	b) 5%	c) 2.5%	d) 0.4%	e) 15%
3a) 0.88	b) 0.94	c) 0.966	d) 0.918	e) 0.895
4a) 20%	b) 5%	c) 2.5%	d) 4%	e) 55%
5a) 2.238 million	b) 1.4%	c) 3.903 million	d) answers vary	
6a) $y = 10.1(1.0125)^x$	b) 18.8 million			
7a) $y = 4000(2)^x$	b) i) 64000	ii) 256000	iii) 2048000	
8a) $y = 600(1.05)^x$	b) \$844.26			
9a) 20000	b) 16%	c) \$7025.96		
10) $y = 1000(0.97)^x$				
11a) $y = 100(0.96)^x$	b) 83.22%			
12a) 0.5m	b) 5 bounces			