

Name Key
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Date _____
8A Period _____

Graphing exponential functions

An exponential function: $y = ab^x$. The basic graph of this function is a curve that approaches the negative x-axis, but never crosses it. (Only in quadrants I & II) } parent function
The graph always crosses the y-axis at (0,1). Changing the coefficient of x (the exponent) to a negative number reverses the direction of the curve, where negating the base would reflect the graph (turn upside down) into quadrant III & IV. The base of the exponent will determine if the graph has growth or decay (see below)

$y = -2^x$ (Reflection over x-axis)

ex $y = 2^{-x}$
Reflection over y:
growth ←
decay →

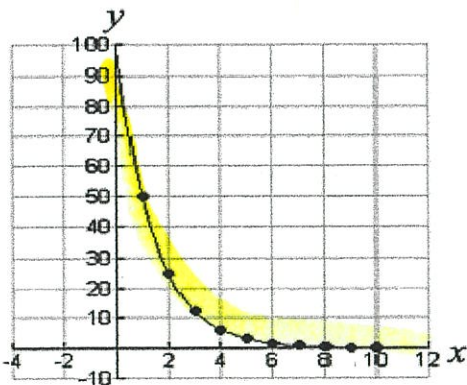
Observe how the graphs of exponential functions change based upon the values of a and b:

$y = a \cdot b^x$

Example: $y = 100 \cdot (0.5)^x$
y-intercept

when $a > 0$ and the b is between 0 and 1, the graph will be decreasing (decaying).

For this example, each time x is increased by 1, y decreases to one half of its previous value.



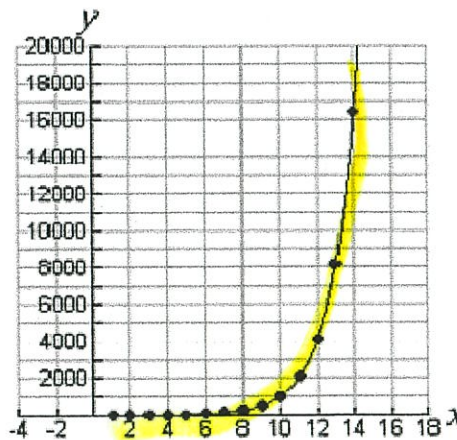
Such a situation is called Exponential Decay.

$y = a \cdot b^x$

Example: $y = 1 \cdot (2)^x$
y-intercept

when $a > 0$ and the b is greater than 1, the graph will be increasing (growing).

For this example, each time x is increased by 1, y increases by a factor of 2.

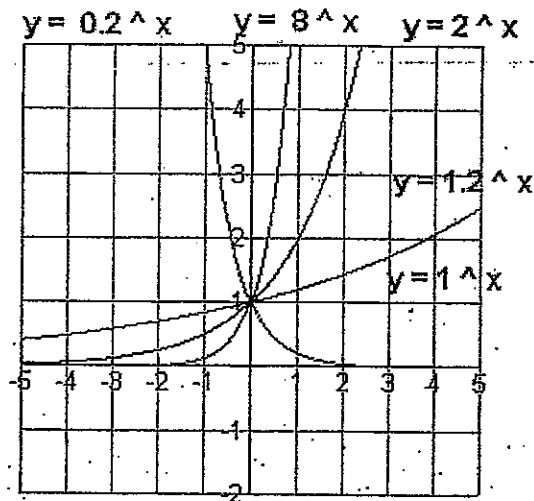


Such a situation is called Exponential Growth.

**These graphs are ALWAYS in quadrants I & II.



Exponential Functions:



Notice that all of the exponential graphs pass through the point $(0, 1)$. This occurs because values raised to the zero power equal 1.

Exponential functions have the variable x as an exponent.

Form being examined is $y = a^x$.

Some Observations:

1. As the base value (a) gets larger, the graph becomes steeper faster - it appears to stretch upward more quickly.
2. As the base value (a) gets closer to 1, the graph flattens. If the base were to become one, the graph would be a horizontal (flat) straight line (not an exponential graph).
3. If the base value (a) is between 0 and 1, the graph appears to have reflected itself over the y -axis: The graph has just turned from exponential growth to exponential decay.

VOCABULARY

An **exponential function** is of the form $f(x) = ab^x$, where $a \neq 0$ and $b > 0, b \neq 1$.

Exponential growth involves the exponential increase of a quantity over time, which is represented by $y = a \cdot b^x$, where $a > 0$ and $b > 1$.

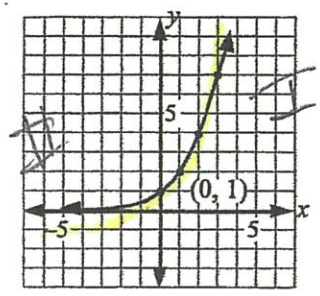
Exponential decay involves the exponential decrease of a quantity over time, which is represented by $y = a \cdot b^x$, where $a > 0$ and $0 < b < 1$.

Exponential decay often involves finding the **half-life** of an object, which is the time needed for an amount of a substance to decrease by one-half.

$y = 2^x$ or $f(x) = 2^x$. Graph approaches but does not cross the negative x-axis. The y-intercept is (0, 1)

Example 1

only in Quad I + II



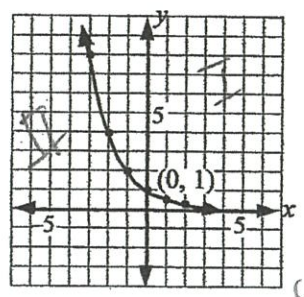
x	y
-3	0.125
-2	0.25
-1	0.5
0	1
1	2
2	4
3	8

y-int
→ These #'s double b/c of the base of 2

$y = 2^{-x}$ Reflection in the y-axis (change direction from growth to decay) as it goes from left to right. It has (0, 1) as its y-intercept, and now it approaches but never crosses the positive x-axis.

Example 2

+ vice-versa
B/c $2^{-x} = \frac{1}{2^x} = 0.5^x$
Decay



x	y
-3	8
-2	4
-1	2
0	1
1	0.5
2	0.25
3	0.125

$y = -2^x$
Reflection over the x-axis

Part I Exs

1) Given $y = 3^x$, evaluate y when $x = 3$

parent function
 $y = 3^x$
 $y = 3^3$
 $y = 27$

2) Would the graph of $y = 0.5^x$ show exponential growth or exponential decay?

Decay B/c the base (b) is between 0 + 1

3) Which ordered pair represents the y-intercept for the function $y = \frac{2^x}{7}$?

(0, 1)

K parent function
↓
B/c it's really $y = 2^x$
y-int

4) The graph of $y = 2^x$ lies in which Quadrants?

parent function

I + II

Graph the following:

1) Draw the graph of the equation $y = 2^x$ in the interval $[-3, 3]$

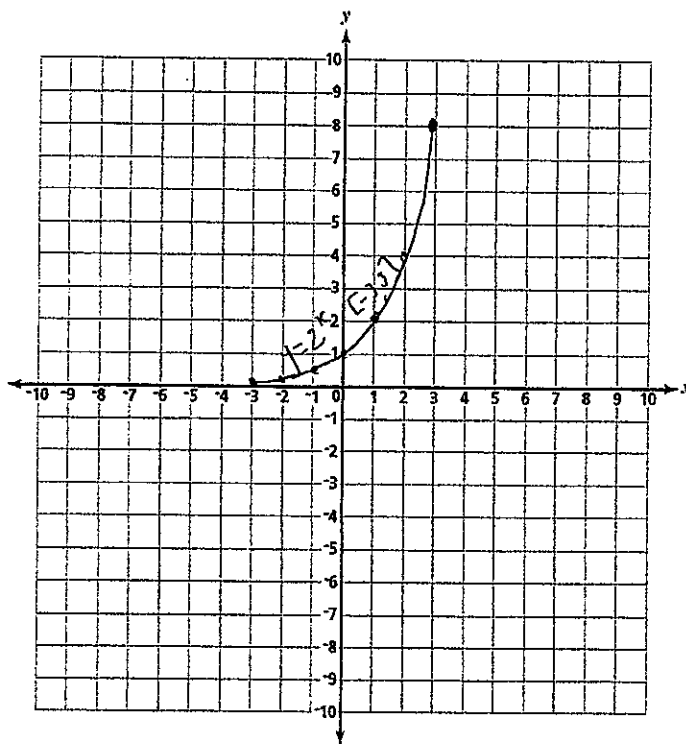
↑ growth
parent function

→ This constraint is in interval notation

⇒ no arrows b/c of constraints given

x	y
-3	.125
-2	.25
-1	.5
0	1
1	2
2	4
3	8

↑
y-values are doubling b/c of the base of 2



2) Draw the graph of the equation $y = (\frac{1}{2})^x$ in the interval $[-3, 5]$

↑ decay

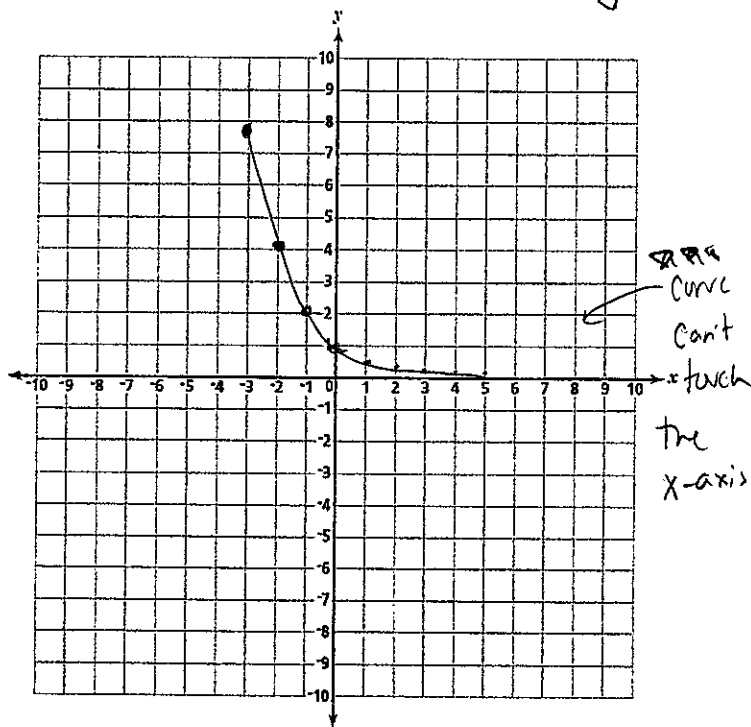
→ constraint in interval notation

⇒ no arrows b/c of constraints given

x	y
-3	8
-2	4
-1	2
0	1
1	.5
2	.25
3	.125
4	.0625
5	.03125

⇒ only in Quad I + II

↑
y-values are halved b/c of the base of 1/2

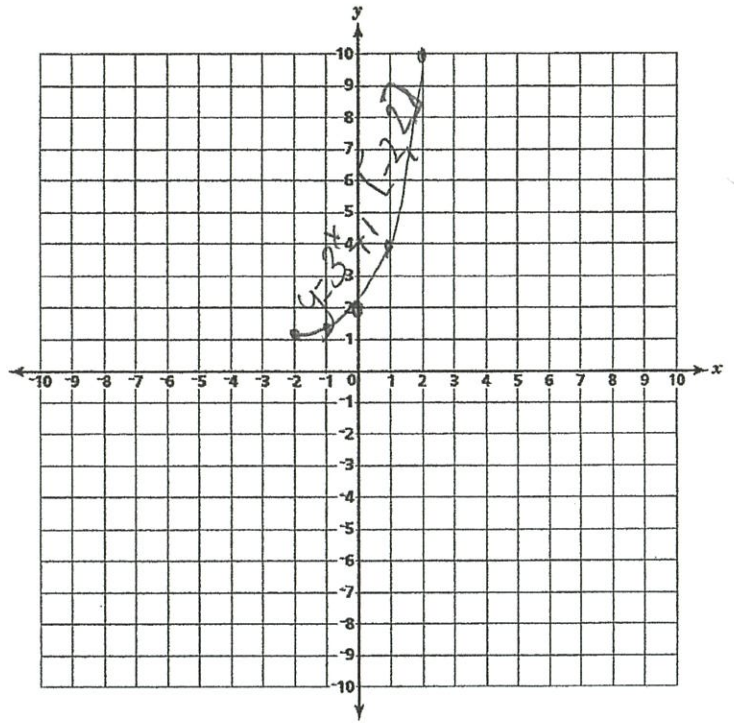


3) $y = 3^x + 1$
 ↑ outside
 ↓ growth

$[-2, 2]$ → interval notation
 → constraints =
 and arrows

X	Y
-2	1.01
-1	1.3
0	2
1	4
2	10

→ y-int



Explain the transformation: Translated 1 unit up from (0, 1) → (0, 2)

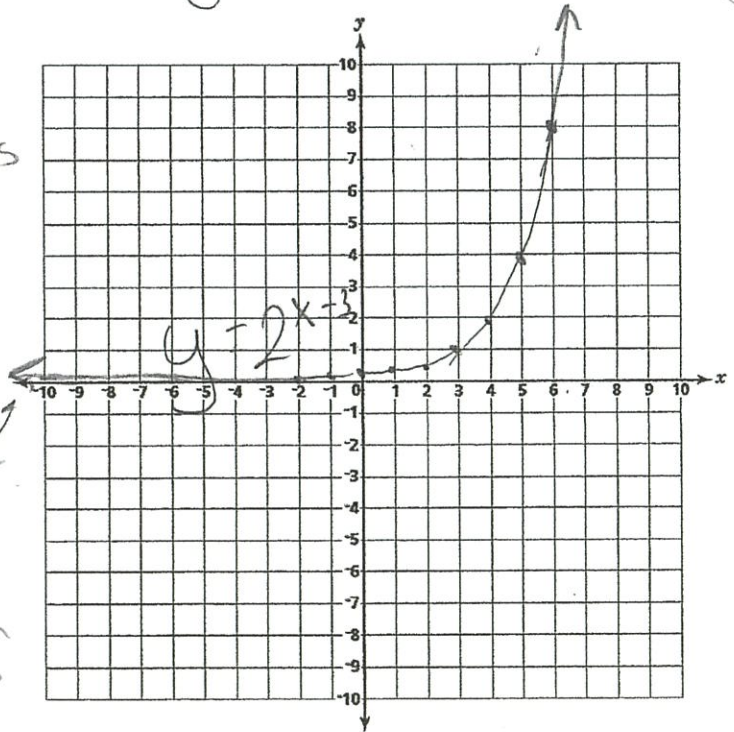
4) $y = 2^{x-3}$
 ↓ growth
 ↑ inside

X	Y
-2	.03125
-1	.0625
0	.125
1	.25
2	.5
3	1
4	2
5	4
6	8

★ arrows
 B/c no
 constraints
 y-int given

★ only in Quad I & II

★ Don't
 go into
 Quad 3
 and
 can't touch
 the x-axis



Explain the transformation: Translated 3 units right from (0, 1)
(0, 1) → (3, 1)

5) $y = -2^x$

outside:

$-2 \leq x \leq 3$

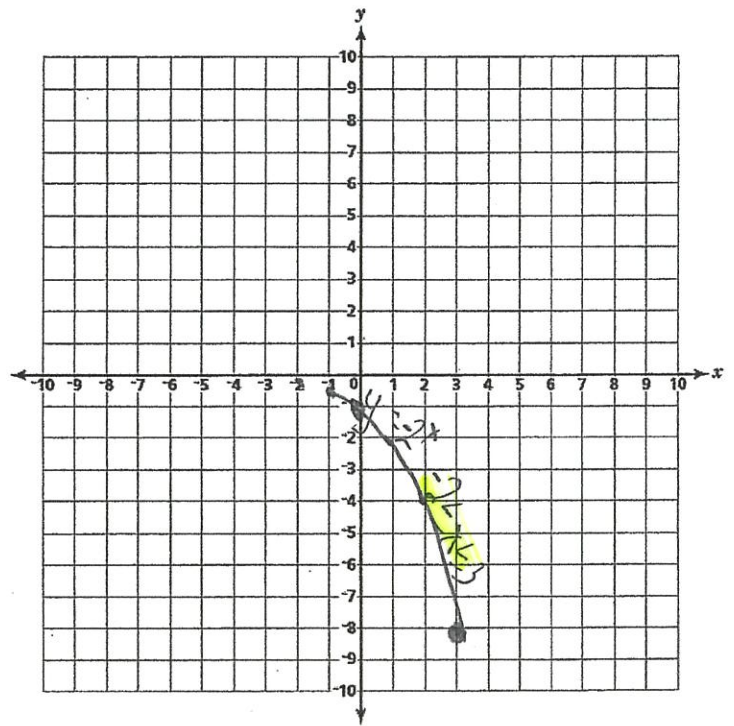
Set builder

no arrows

b/c constraints given

x	y
-2	-0.25
-1	-0.5
0	-1
1	-2
2	-4
3	-8

$\rightarrow y$ -int



Explain the transformation: Reflection in the x-axis $(0, 1) \rightarrow (0, -1)$

6) $y = 3^{-x} \rightarrow \frac{1}{3^x} = \frac{1}{3^x}$

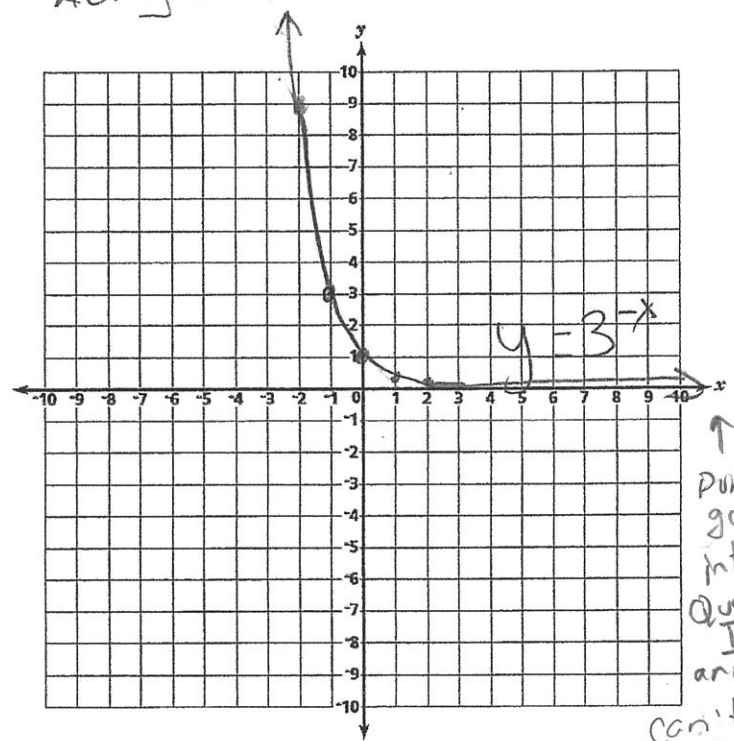
Growth inside decay

x	y
-2	9
-1	3
0	1
1	.333
2	.111
3	.03704

no arrows b/c no constraints

$\rightarrow y$ -int

only in Quad I & II



Don't go into Quad IV and it can't touch the x-axis

Explain the transformation: Reflection in the y-axis
 so it changes from growth to decay