

Growing, Growing Investigation 3.1 and Scientific Notation

Introducing Rabbits

A small number of rabbits were introduced to Australia by English settlers. The rabbits had no natural predators in Australia, so they reproduced rapidly and became a serious problem, especially for sheep and cattle.

Scientists had counted the rabbits in Australia in the years after they were introduced, they might have collected data like these:

The graph shows the rabbit population growing exponentially.



Growth of Rabbit Population

Time (yr)	Population
0	100
1	180
2	325
3	583
4	1,050

What is the growth factor? 1.8 Show how you found your answer. $180 \div 100$

Assume the growth pattern continued. Write an equation for the rabbit population, p , for any year, n , after the rabbits were first introduced. Explain what the numbers in your equation represent.

$$p = 100 \cdot 1.8^n$$

How many rabbits will there be in 10 years? $100 \cdot 1.8^{10} = 35,705$

How many will there be after 25 years? $100 \cdot 1.8^{25} = 240,886,592$ After 50 years? $100 \cdot 1.8^{50} = 5.8 \times 10^{14}$

How many years will the rabbit population exceed one million? 16 years or between 15 & 16 yrs

Assume that during a different time period, the rabbit population could be predicted by the equation $p = 15(1.2^n)$, where p is the population in millions, and n is the number of years.

What is the growth factor? _____ 2. What is the initial population? _____

The graph shows that the elk population in a state is growing exponentially.

What is the growth factor? _____

How did you get your answer? _____

Assume that this growth pattern continues.

How many elk will there be in 10 years? _____ 15 years? _____

Growth of Elk Population

Time (yr)	Population
0	30
1	57
2	108
3	206
4	391
5	743



Suppose the population is growing linearly. What is the pattern in the population from one month to the next? **Add 10**

e. Suppose the population is growing exponentially. What is the pattern in the population from one month to the next? **multiply 3**

b. Suppose the population is growing linearly. Complete the table.

# of Months	# of Beetles
0	5
1	15
2	
3	
4	

f. Suppose the population is growing exponentially. Complete the table.

# of Months	# of Beetles
0	5
1	15
2	
3	
4	

c. Write an equation for the number of beetles, b , after m months if the beetle population is growing linearly. _____

g. Write an equation for the number of beetles, b , after m months if the beetle population is growing exponentially. _____

d. How long will it take the population to reach 200 if it is growing linearly? _____

h. How long will it take the population to reach 200 if it is growing exponentially? _____

4. Each table shows exponential growth or a linear relationship. Complete each table. Fill in the blanks. **(page 9)**

Table A

t	0	1	2	3	4
m	8	24	72	216	

Linear or exponential? _____

Equation: _____

Table B

t	0	1	2	3	4
p	15	18	21	24	

Linear or exponential? _____

Equation: _____

Table C

n	0	1	2	3	4	10
a	5	7.5	11.25	16.88		

Linear or exponential? _____

Equation: _____

Table D

s	0	1	2	3	4	20
m		8.5	6	3.5		

Linear or exponential? _____

Equation: _____