Exponential Decay – Practice Problems

1. Garden City introduced a recycling program. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of pounds of trash sent to landfills by 25% each year. In 2010, Garden City produced 100,000 tons of trash. If the recycling program were to reach its goal, how many tons of trash can Garden City expect to produce in the year 2025?

2. A city of 2,950,000 has a 2.5% annual decrease in population. Determine the city's population after each of the following:

a. 1 year

b. 5 years

c. 15 years

d. 25 years

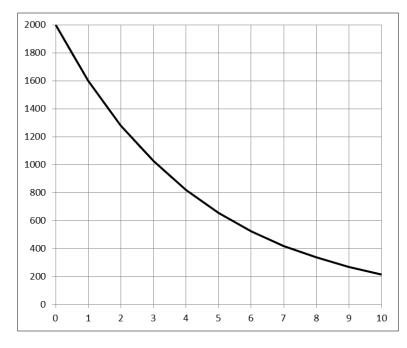
- 3. Several species of whale have been declared endangered. When the populations of a particular whale species fall dangerously low, biologists encourage governments to agree to a ban on hunting the species. Suppose that, in the year 2000, there were only 5,000 whales of a particular species and that the population was predicted to continue to decline as shown in the table.
 - a. Which equation below models this population pattern?
 - A. $W = 5,000(0.1^{y})$
 - B. $W = 5,000(0.9^{y})$
 - C. $W = 5,000 500^{y}$
 - D. $W = 5,000^{y}$
 - **b**. What is the decay factor for the relationship? Explain how you determined your answer.

5,000
4,500
4,050
3,645
3,281
2,952
2,657

c. Define all the numbers and variables in the equation in the context of the problem.

- d. According to this model, what will the whale population be in 2007?
- e. What is the decay rate?

4. Write an equation for the exponential relationship in the graph below. Show your work.



- **5.** The population of a certain species of bird is decreasing by 10% each year. If the population in year 0 is 15,000, which of the following statements are true? *Select all that apply.*
 - □ In year 7, there will be fewer than 7,000 of this species of bird.
 - After 5 years, there will be approximately 8,857 of this species of bird.
 - □ The graph of this relationship shows exponential decay.
 - \Box The decay factor is 0.10.
 - □ After 1 year, there will be 13,500 of this species of bird.

6. In some areas, home values have decreased over the past 10 years. The table shows the decrease in the home value of one house.

Year	Home Value
0	\$250,000
1	\$242,500
2	\$235,225
3	\$228,168
4	\$221,323
5	\$214,684

Using the tiles, write an equation that represents the value of the home, *v*, after *t* years.



7. A tree farm has begun to harvest a section of trees that was planted a number of years ago. The table shows the number of trees remaining for each of 8 years of harvesting.

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Trees	10,000	9502	9026	8574	8145	7737	7350	6892	6543
remaining	10,000	5502	5020	0574	0145	1131	/ 330	0092	0545

- **a**. Suppose the relationship between the year and the number of trees remaining is exponential. Approximate the decay factor for this relationship. Explain how you found this.
- **b**. Write an equation for the relationship between time and trees remaining.

c. Use your equation to find how many trees will be left after 20 years?

9. Another tree farm plans to harvest their trees so that there was a linear relationship with the initial data presented in the table below.

Year	0	1	
Trees	10,000	9502	
remaining	10,000	9502	

b. Write an equation for the relationship between time and trees remaining.

c. Use your equation to find how many trees will be left after 20 years?