## Unit 4 Lesson 7: Interpreting and Using Exponential Functions

### 1 Halving and Doubling (Warm up)

#### Student Task Statement

1. A colony of microbes doubles in population every 6 hours. Explain why we could say that the population grows by a factor of every hour.
2. A bacteria population decreases by a factor of every 4 hours. Explain why we could also say that the population decays by a factor of  every hour.

### 2 Radiocarbon Dating

#### Student Task Statement

Carbon-14 is used to find the age of certain artifacts and fossils. It has a half-life of 5,730 years, so if an object has carbon-14, it loses half of it every 5,730 years.

1. At a certain point in time, a fossil had 3 picograms (a trillionth of a gram) of carbon-14. Complete the table with the missing mass of carbon-14 and years.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * number of years after fossil had 3 picograms of carbon-14 | * mass of carbon-14 in picograms |
| * 0 | * 3 |
| * 1,910 |  |
| * 5,730 |  |
|  | * 0.75 |

1. A scientist uses the expression to model the number of picograms of carbon-14 remaining in a different fossil years after 20,000 BC.
   1. What do the 2.5, , and 5,730 mean in this situation?
   2. Would more or less than 0.1 picogram of carbon-14 remain in this fossil today? Explain how you know.

### 3 Old Manuscripts

#### Student Task Statement

The half-life of carbon-14 is about 5,730 years.

1. Pythagoras lived between 600 BCE and 500 BCE. Explain why the age of a papyrus from the time of Pythagoras is about half of a carbon-14 half-life.
2. Someone claims they have a papyrus scroll written by Pythagoras. Testing shows the scroll has 85% of its original amount of carbon-14 remaining. Explain why the scroll is likely a fake.



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