

9-2 Study Guide and Intervention

Logarithms and Logarithmic Functions

Logarithmic Functions and Expressions

Definition of Logarithm with Base b

Let b and x be positive numbers, $b \neq 1$. The logarithm of x with base b is denoted $\log_b x$ and is defined as the exponent y that makes the equation $b^y = x$ true.

The inverse of the exponential function $y = b^x$ is the **logarithmic function** $x = b^y$. This function is usually written as $y = \log_b x$.

Properties of Logarithmic Functions

1. The function is continuous and one-to-one.
2. The domain is the set of all positive real numbers.
3. The y -axis is an asymptote of the graph.
4. The range is the set of all real numbers.
5. The graph contains the point $(1, 0)$.

Example 1

Write an exponential equation equivalent to $\log_3 243 = 5$.

$$3^5 = 243$$

Example 2

Write a logarithmic equation equivalent to $6^{-3} = \frac{1}{216}$.

$$\log_6 \frac{1}{216} = -3$$

Example 3

Evaluate $\log_8 16$.

$$8^{\frac{4}{3}} = 16, \text{ so } \log_8 16 = \frac{4}{3}.$$

Exercises

Write each equation in logarithmic form.

1. $2^7 = 128$

2. $3^{-4} = \frac{1}{81}$

3. $\left(\frac{1}{7}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{343}$

Write each equation in exponential form.

4. $\log_{15} 225 = 2$

5. $\log_3 \frac{1}{27} = -3$

6. $\log_4 32 = \frac{5}{2}$

Evaluate each expression.

7. $\log_4 64$

8. $\log_2 64$

9. $\log_{100} 100,000$

10. $\log_5 625$

11. $\log_{27} 81$

12. $\log_{25} 5$

13. $\log_2 \frac{1}{128}$

14. $\log_{10} 0.00001$

15. $\log_4 \frac{1}{32}$