

# Geometric Sequence - Answer Key

- Is  $-2, 2, -2, 2, \dots$  a geometric sequence? Give reasons.  
Yes, with first term  $-2$  and common ratio  $r = -1$ .
- Is  $\frac{1}{3}, 1, \frac{1}{9}, 3, \frac{1}{27}, 9, \dots$  a geometric sequence? Give reasons.  
No, there is no common ratio.
- If  $a_3 = 9$  and  $a_7 = 81$  for a geometric sequence  $\{a_n\}$ , find the common ratio  $r$ .  
 $r = \sqrt{3}$ .
- If  $a_1 = 8$  and the common ratio is  $r = \frac{1}{2}$ , find  $n$  for which  $a_n = r$ .  
5.
- If  $a_n = \alpha$  and  $a_m = \beta$  for an arithmetic sequence  $\{a_n\}$ , the common ratio  $r$  and the first term.  
 $r = \sqrt[n-m]{\frac{\alpha}{\beta}}$  and  $a_1 = \sqrt[n-m]{\frac{\beta^{n-1}}{\alpha^{m-1}}}$ .
- Find the first term and common ratio of the sequence  $\{\alpha e^{kn}\}$ .  
 $a_1 = \alpha e^k$  and  $r = e^k$ .
- If the  $m$ th term of the sequence  $\{\alpha e^{kn}\}$  is equal to twice the first term, find the value of  $k$ .  
 $k = \frac{\ln 2}{m-1}$ .
- Bill throws a ball from the terrace of a 60 m building. In each bounce the ball attains a vertical height that is 25% of the previous height. Find the distance travelled by the ball after the 2nd bounce.  
 $60 + 2 \times 60 \times 0.25 + 2 \times 60 \times (0.25)^2 = 105$  m.
- A pendulum swings through an arc of 4 meters, where on each successive swing the length of the arc is 0.82 of the previous length. Find the length after 6 swings.  
 $4(0.82)^6 = 1.22$  meters.
- A population of bacteria doubles in number every 3 hours. If initially the population is 1000 bacteria, when does it become 5000?  
7.8 hrs (7.5 hrs is also an acceptable answer.)