

**Worksheet 2-2: Powers with Rational Base****Rational numbers**

**Rational numbers are numbers that can be written in fractional form**

e.g.,  $2.3 = \frac{23}{10}$

$$4.67 = \frac{467}{100}$$

$$0.78 = \frac{78}{100} = \frac{39}{50}$$

**Powers with Rational Base**

**Powers with rational base are powers whose base is a rational number (a fraction or a decimal).**

e.g.,  $2.3^2$  Base = 2.3

$$\left(\frac{2}{7}\right)^3 \text{ Base} = \frac{2}{7}$$

**Practice:**

**1. State the base, exponent and expanded form of the following powers.**

(a)  $3.9^4$

Base =

Exponent =

Product =

(b)  $-4.5^2$

Base =

Exponent =

Product =

(c)  $(-2.8)^3$

Base =

Exponent =

Product =

(d)  $\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^3$

Base =

Exponent =

Product =

(e)  $-\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^4$

Base =

Exponent =

Product =

(f)  $\left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)^5$

Base =

Exponent =

Product =

2. Evaluate. (Use your calculator.)

(a)  $2.9^3$  to the nearest tenth

(b)  $-7.4^2$  to the nearest hundredth

(c)  $10.27^4$  to the nearest thousandth

(d)  $(-4.9)^6$  to the nearest ten thousandth

**Evaluating Power of a Fraction**

$$\left(\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{a^n}{b^n}$$

$$\left(-\frac{a}{b}\right)^n = \frac{(-a)^n}{b^n} \text{ or } \frac{a^n}{(-b)^n}$$

3. Simplify then evaluate. Write answer as a fraction.

(a)  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3$

(b)  $\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^4$

(c)  $\left(-\frac{3}{4}\right)^2$

(d)  $\left(-\frac{1}{5}\right)^3$

**Answers: 2.** (a) 24.4, (b) -54.76, (c) 11124.533, (d) 13841.2872; **3.** (a)  $\frac{1}{8}$ , (b)  $\frac{16}{81}$ , (c)  $\frac{9}{16}$ , (d)  $-\frac{1}{125}$