

Logarithms – Investigation

Part I:

Evaluate the expressions on the left, using your understanding of logs.

Re-write each of your answers as a single logarithm, as shown in the example.

Example: $\log_4(16) + \log_4(4) = 2 + 1 = 3$ This answer, 3, is equal to $\log_4(64)$

We've shown that: $\log_4(16) + \log_4(4) = \log_4(64)$

1) $\log_2(8) + \log_2(4) = \underline{\quad}$ $\log_2(\quad)$

2) $\log_3(9) + \log_3(81) = \underline{\quad}$ $\log_3(\quad)$

these can be written as...

3) $\log_5(\frac{1}{5}) + \log_5(81) = \underline{\quad}$ $\log_5(\quad)$

4) $\log_5(5) + \log_5(1) = \underline{\quad}$ $\log_5(\quad)$

5) What pattern seems to hold? Write a rule:

$\log_c X + \log_c Y = \log_c (\quad)$

Below are some questions that we can't answer directly with the definition of logarithms. Use the pattern discovered above to write each one as a single logarithm, then evaluate it.

6) $\log_6 12 + \log_6 3$

7) $\log 250 + \log 40$

8) $\log_8(\frac{1}{64}) + \log_8(\frac{1}{8})$

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We've shown that: $\log_4(16) + \log_4(4) = \log_4(64)$

1) $\log_2(\frac{8}{3}) + \log_2(4) = \underline{5}$ $\log_2(\underline{32}) = 5$

2) $\log_3(\frac{9}{2}) + \log_3(81) = \underline{6}$ $\log_3(\underline{729}) = 6$

these can be written as...

3) $\log_5(\frac{1}{5}) + \log_5(81) = \underline{2}$ $\log_5(\underline{9}) = 2$

4) $\log_5(\frac{5}{1}) + \log_5(1) = \underline{1}$ $\log_5(\underline{5}) = 1$

5) What pattern seems to hold? Write a rule:

$\log_c X + \log_c Y = \log_c (XY)$

Below are some questions that we can't answer directly with the definition of logarithms. Use the pattern discovered above to write each one as a single logarithm, then evaluate it.

6) $\log_6 12 + \log_6 3 = \log_6(12 \cdot 3)$
 $= \log_6(36) = 2$

7) $\log 250 + \log 40 = \log(250 \cdot 40)$
 $= \log(10000) = 4$

8) $\log_8(\frac{1}{64}) + \log_8(\frac{1}{8}) = \log_8(\frac{1}{64} \cdot \frac{1}{8})$
 $= \log_8(\frac{1}{512})$
 $= \log_8(\frac{1}{8^3})$
 $= \log_8(8^{-3}) = -3$

This result links to an exponent law we already know:

$\log_c X = a$ means $c^a = X$ } definition of logarithm
 $\log_c Y = b$ means $c^b = Y$ }
 substituting from above

$\log_c(XY) = \log_c(c^a c^b)$ } using exponent law
 $= \log_c(c^{a+b})$
 $= a+b$ } definition of logarithm
 $= \log_c X + \log_c Y$

Part II:

Evaluate the expressions on the left, using your understanding of logs.

Re-write each of your answers as a single logarithm, as shown in the example.

Example: $\log_2(64) - \log_2(16) = 3 - 2 = 1$ This answer, 1, is equal to $\log_2(4)$

We've shown that: $\log_2(64) - \log_2(16) = \log_2(4)$

9) $\log_3 625 - \log_3 5 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ $\log_3(\hspace{1cm})$

10) $\log_6 36 - \log_6 6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ $\log_6(\hspace{1cm})$
which is the same as...

11) $\log_5 9 - \log_5 1 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ $\log_5(\hspace{1cm})$

12) $\log_2 16 - \log_2 32 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ $\log_2(\hspace{1cm})$

13) What pattern seems to hold? Write a rule:

$$\log_c X - \log_c Y = \log_c (\hspace{1cm})$$

Below are more questions that we can't answer directly with the definition of logarithms. Use the new pattern discovered above to write each one as a single logarithm, then evaluate it.

14) $\log_6 72 - \log_6 2$

15) $\log 12 - \log 0.12$

16) $\log_{12} 2 - \log_{12} 288$

Part II:

Evaluate the expressions on the left, using your understanding of logs.

Re-write each of your answers as a single logarithm, as shown in the example.

Example: $\log_2(64) - \log_2(16) = 3 - 2 = 1$ This answer, 1, is equal to $\log_2(4)$

We've shown that: $\log_2(64) - \log_2(16) = \log_2(4)$

9) $\log_4 625 - \log_4 5 = \underline{3}$ $\log_4(125) = 3$

10) $\log_2 36 - \log_2 6 = \underline{1}$ $\log_2(6) = 1$
which is the same as...

11) $\log_2 9 - \log_2 1 = \underline{2}$ $\log_2(9) = 2$

12) $\log_2 16 - \log_2 32 = \underline{-1}$ $\log_2(\frac{1}{2}) = -1$

13) What pattern seems to hold? Write a rule:

$$\log_c X - \log_c Y = \log_c (\frac{X}{Y})$$

Below are more questions that we can't answer directly with the definition of logarithms. Use the new pattern discovered above to write each one as a single logarithm, then evaluate it.

14) $\log_6 72 - \log_6 2 = \log_6(\frac{72}{2})$
 $= \log_6(36) = 2$

15) $\log 12 - \log 0.12 = \log(\frac{12}{0.12})$
 $= \log(100) = 2$

16) $\log_{12} 2 - \log_{12} 288 = \log_{12}(\frac{2}{288})$
 $= \log_{12}(\frac{1}{144})$
 $= \log_{12}(\frac{1}{12^2})$
 $= \log_{12}(12^{-2}) = -2$

This result also links to an exponent law we already know:
 $\log_c X = a$ means $c^a = X$
 $\log_c Y = b$ means $c^b = Y$
 $\log_c(\frac{X}{Y}) = \log_c(\frac{c^a}{c^b})$
 $= \log_c(c^{a-b})$
 $= a - b$
 $= \log_c X - \log_c Y$

Using exponent law
definition of logarithm
definition of logarithm
substituting from above

Your Turn

Use the laws of logarithms to simplify and evaluate each expression.

b) $\log_5 1000 - \log_5 4 - \log_5 2$
 $= \log_5(\frac{1000}{4}) - \log_5 2$
 $= \log_5(250) - \log_5 2$
 $= \log_5(\frac{250}{2})$
 $= \log_5 125 = 3$

c) $2 \log_3 6 - \frac{1}{2} \log_3 64 + \log_3 2$
 $= \log_3(6^2) - \log_3 64^{\frac{1}{2}} + \log_3 2$
 $= \log_3 36 - \log_3 8 + \log_3 2$
 $= \log_3(\frac{36}{8}) + \log_3 2$
 $= \log_3(\frac{36 \times 2}{8})$

$$= \log_3 \left(\frac{72}{8} \right) = \log_3 9 = 2$$