

Math Grades 9 – 12
Rational Exponents

MA.912.A.6.3

A Short Account of the History of Mathematics

"John Wallis"

W. W. Rouse Ball

Reading Level: 12

Activity:

The following statement is made in the reading, "*He commences by proving the law of indices; shows that $x^0, x^{-1}, x^{-2} \dots$ represents 1, $1/x, 1/x^2 \dots$; that $x^{1/2}$ represents the square root of x , that $x^{2/3}$ represents the cube root of x^2 , and generally that x^{-n} represents the reciprocal of x^n , and that $x^{p/q}$ represents the q th root of x^p .*"

Use this information to do the following problems.

Rewrite in exponential form.

1. \sqrt{x}

2. $\sqrt[3]{x^2}$

3. $\sqrt[4]{x^5}$

4. $\frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x}}$

5. $\frac{x^3}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$

Rewrite in radical form.

6. $x^{-1/2}$

7. $x^{2/3}$

8. $\frac{1}{x^2}$

9. $\frac{1}{x^3}$

10. $\frac{1}{x^4}$