

STUDENT MATERIALS

PART 1: THE SCIENCE OF MATH

1. The distance from Earth to the Sun is 1.5×10^8 km. Scientists would like to place a weather station halfway between the Earth and the Sun. How far away from the Earth would the weather station be in scientific notation? Give your answer in scientific notation.

$$1.5 \cdot 10^8 = 150,000,000 \div 2 = 75,000,000$$

6

2. A bacteria sample contains 2.1×10^3 bacteria and doubles every hour. What is the size of the bacterial population after 2 hours? Give your answer in scientific notation.

$$2.1 \cdot 10^3 = 2100 \cdot 2 = 4200 \cdot 2 = 8400$$

PART 2: SCIENTIFIC NOTATION IN THE SOUTH OF AFRICA

3. There are two countries, Lesotho and Eswatini, located within South Africa. Eswatini has a population of 1.192×10^6 . Lesotho has a population of 2,281,000. What is the total population of these two countries in scientific notation?

↓
1,192,000

↓
 $2,281 \times 10^3$

4. Population density is a measurement of population per unit of land area. Eswatini has a land area of 6,704 miles². With a population of 1.192×10^6 , what is the approximate population density (people per square mile) of Eswatini?

178

PART 2: SCIENTIFIC NOTATION IN THE SOUTH OF AFRICA

5. South Africa has a land area of 470,900 miles². With a population of 6.601×10^7 , what is the approximate population density (people per square mile) of South Africa?

↓
66,010,000

140

6. In the problems 4 and 5, you explored the population density of Eswatini and South Africa. What do you think the challenges are for each country based on their size and population density?

Seeing how much people they can fit into
each location due to limited land area.