

Trigonometric Graphing Applications  
YOU CAN USE GRAPHING TECHNOLOGY ON ALL PARTS

In a fluctuating population of birds, the population is modeled by the function:

$$f(t) = 900 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}t\right) + 8000$$

where  $t$  is measured in years.

a. Sketch a graph that represents the given population model.

b. Find the length of time between successive periods of maximum population.

3 years

c. What is the minimum population? When does this occur in the first cycle?

7100 Birds. After 1.5 years

d. What is the average amount of birds over the open-ended time period?

8000 Birds

e. After 19 years, in the population of the birds increasing or decreasing?

$f(19) = 7550$ . Population of Birds is increasing

$f(t) = 900 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}t\right) + 8000$   
 Amplitude: 900  
 period:  $\frac{2\pi}{2\pi/3} \rightarrow 3$   
 phase shift: none  
 vertical shift: 8000

Trigonometric Graphing Applications

**A variable star is one whose brightness alternately increases and decreases. For the variable star HAMSTAR, the time between periods of maximum brightness is 5.4 days. The average brightness of the star is 4.0, and its brightness varies by a magnitude of 0.35.**

a. If the HAMSTAR is at its brightest at  $t = 0$ , sketch a graph that represents the star's brightness with respect to time

b. Find a function that models the brightness as a function of time.

period =  $\frac{2\pi}{B}$     period = 5.4

$\frac{2\pi}{B} = 5.4 \rightarrow \frac{2\pi}{5.4} \rightarrow \frac{10\pi}{27}$

trig: cos  
 A = 0.35    B =  $\frac{10\pi}{27}$   
 C = none    D = 4

Final Build: \_\_\_\_\_

$f(t) = 0.35 \cos\left(\frac{10\pi}{27}t\right) + 4$

c. At what point will the star be at its dimmest? What is its magnitude?

The star will be its dimmest 2.7 day after we start and every 5.4 thereafter.  
 $t = 2.7 + 5.4n$ , where "n" is an integer.

d. What is the magnitude of brightness after 2 weeks?

$f(14) = 3.708$  the average brightness after two weeks is 3.708

Trigonometric Graphing Applications

The height in cm of the tip of a second hand (the hand that keeps track of seconds) on a vertical clock face varies as a function of time in seconds. The second hand is 20 cm long, and the middle of the clock face is 225 cm above the ground.

a. Find a function to model the height of the second hand as a function of time assuming the hand is at the 9 o'clock position to start.

period =  $\frac{2\pi}{B}$     period = 60

$\frac{2\pi}{B} = 60 \rightarrow B = \frac{\pi}{30}$

trig: sin  
 A = 20    B =  $\frac{\pi}{30}$   
 C = none    D = 225  
 Final Build: \_\_\_\_\_

$\rightarrow h(t) = 20\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{30}t\right) + 225$

b. How far above the ground is the tip of the second hand after 15 seconds?

$h(15) = 245$  after 15 secs the tip of the second hand is 245 cm (graph next page)

c. How far above the ground is the second hand when it reaches the 8 o'clock mark?

$h(55) = 215$  at 8 o'clock the tip of the second hand is 215 cm (graph next page)

d. Find the first time that the hand is 212 cm above the ground.

After 36.757 secs, the height of the hand is 212 cm for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. (graph next page)

