

**Learning Target:** ☺ Finding the zeros of a polynomial using the Rational Root Theorem.

**Warm Up:** Use synthetic division to see if  $c$  is a zero of  $P(x)$ .

a.  $P(x) = 4x^3 - 10x^2 - 8x + 6, \quad c = 1$

b.  $P(x) = x^4 - 2x^2 - 100x - 75, \quad c = 5$

A polynomial function  $P$  of degree  $n$  has a most \_\_\_\_\_ zeros, including \_\_\_\_\_.

**Rational Zero Theorem:** We will do an **actual example** to show this theorem!

Given  $P(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - x - 2$

$p =$  \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

$q =$  \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

Factors of  $p$ :

Factors of  $q$ :

❖ Possible rational zeros is the following list:

➤ All possible \_\_\_\_\_ **divided by**

all possible \_\_\_\_\_

➤ Complete the list by putting a \_\_\_\_\_ sign in front of each possible rational zero

List of possible rational zeros from the example above:

**Steps to Finding Real Zeros of  $P(x)$ .**

1. Do \_\_\_\_\_ using the list you just generated to find the rational zeros.
2. Once you get the quotient down to a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ to solve for the remaining rational zeros.
3. If the quadratic cannot be factored, the remaining zeros are either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ and should be found using the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Once you find a rational zero, if what's left is still greater than a quadratic, you should always check for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ equals the \_\_\_\_\_ of zeros!!

Turn the page over to continue the example for the Rational Root Theorem

**Example 1:** Given  $P(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - x - 2$

[This was copied for you from the previous page!]

Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$$p = 2$$

$$q = 1$$

Factors of  $p$ : 1, 2

Factors of  $q$ : 1

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:  $\pm 1, \pm 2$

Start the synthetic division with  $+1$

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

**Example 2:** Given  $P(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 5x - 6$

Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$$p = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$q = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Factors of  $p$ :

Factors of  $q$ :

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with  $+1$

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

**Example 3:** Given  $P(x) = x^4 + 4x^3 - x^2 - 16x - 12$  Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$p =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $q =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Factors of  $p$ : Factors of  $q$ :

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

**Example 4:** Given  $P(x) = 2x^3 + 9x^2 + 10x + 3$  Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$p =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $q =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Factors of  $p$ : Factors of  $q$ :

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_



**Key Ideas:**

1. Given  $P(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 6x - 8$  Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_  
 $p =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $q =$  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Factors of  $p$ : \_\_\_\_\_ Factors of  $q$ : \_\_\_\_\_

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Given  $P(x) = x^3 - 3x - 2$  Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_  
 $p =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $q =$  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Factors of  $p$ : \_\_\_\_\_ Factors of  $q$ : \_\_\_\_\_

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

**Don't forget to put a zero where  $x^2$  belongs!**

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Given  $P(x) = 2x^3 + 9x^2 - 2x - 9$

Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$p =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$q =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Factors of  $p$ :

Factors of  $q$ :

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Given  $P(x) = 2x^4 + 3x^3 - 4x^2 - 3x + 2$

Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$p =$  \_\_\_\_\_

$q =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Factors of  $p$ :

Factors of  $q$ :

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Given  $P(x) = x^3 - 19x - 30$

Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$p =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $q =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Factors of  $p$ : Factors of  $q$ :

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

**Don't forget to put a zero where  $x^2$  belongs!**

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Given  $P(x) = x^4 + 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 8x - 4$

Degree = \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Zeros = \_\_\_\_\_

$p =$  \_\_\_\_\_  $q =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Factors of  $p$ : Factors of  $q$ :

Possible rational zeros is the list of all possible factors of  $p$  divided by all possible factors of  $q$ . Put a  $\pm$  sign in front of each possible rational zero!

List of possible rational zeros:

Start the synthetic division with +1

**Don't forget to check for multiplicities!**

What are the rational zeros of  $P(x)$ ? \_\_\_\_\_

**Ex 1:** 1, -1, -2    **Ex 2:** -1, -3, 2    **Ex 3:** -1, 2, -2, -3    **Ex 4:** -1, -3,  $-\frac{1}{2}$

1. -1, 2, -4    2. -1 multiplicity 2, 2    3. 1, -1,  $-\frac{9}{2}$   
 4. 1, -1, -2,  $\frac{1}{2}$     5. -2, -3, 5    6. -1 multiplicity 2, 2, -2