

LESSON
6-6

Reteach

Fundamental Theorem of Algebra

If r is a root of a polynomial function, then $(x - r)$ is a factor of the polynomial, $P(x)$. So, you can use the roots to write the simplest form of a polynomial function.

Write the simplest polynomial function with roots -4 , -2 , and 3 .

Step 1 Write the factors of the polynomial, $P(x) = 0$.

$$(x + 4)(x + 2)(x - 3) = 0$$

Step 2 Multiply the first two factors, $(x + 4)(x + 2)$.

$$(x^2 + 6x + 8)(x - 3) = 0$$

Step 3 Multiply $(x^2 + 6x + 8)(x - 3)$. Then simplify.

$$x^3 - 3x^2 + 6x^2 - 18x + 8x - 24 = 0$$

$$x^3 + 3x^2 - 10x - 24 = 0$$

The function is $P(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 10x - 24 = 0$.

Root (a)	-4	-2	3
Factor (x - a)	x + 4	x + 2	x - 3

Write the simplest polynomial function with the given roots.

1. -5 , 1 , and 2

$$(x + 5)(x - 1)(x - 2) = 0$$

$$(x^2 + 4x - 5)(x - 2) = 0$$

$$x^3 + 4x^2 - 5x - 2x^2 - 8x + 10 = 0$$

$$P(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 13x + 10 = 0$$

2. -3 , -1 , and 0

$$x(x + 3)(x + 1) = 0$$

$$x(x^2 + 4x + 3) = 0$$

$$P(x) = x^3 + 4x^2 + 3x = 0$$

3. 1 , 4 , and 5

$$(x - 1)(x - 4)(x - 5)$$

$$(x^2 - 5x + 4)(x - 5)$$

$$x^3 - 5x^2 + 4x - 5x^2 + 25x - 20$$

$$P(x) = x^3 - 10x^2 + 29x - 20 = 0$$

4. -2 , 3 , and 6

$$(x + 2)(x - 3)(x - 6)$$

$$(x^2 - x - 6)(x - 6)$$

$$x^3 - x^2 - 6x - 6x^2 + 6x + 36$$

$$P(x) = x^3 - 7x^2 + 36 = 0$$

5. 2 , 4 , and 6

$$(x - 2)(x - 4)(x - 6)$$

$$(x^2 - 6x + 8)(x - 6)$$

$$x^3 - 6x^2 + 8x - 6x^2 + 36x - 48$$

$$P(x) = x^3 - 12x^2 + 44x - 48 = 0$$

6. -5 , 0 , and 5

$$x(x + 5)(x - 5)$$

$$x(x^2 - 25) = 0$$

$$P(x) = x^3 - 25x = 0$$

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Fundamental Theorem of Algebra (continued)

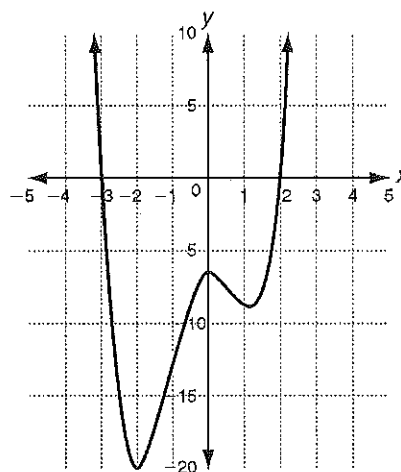
To solve $x^4 + x^3 - 5x^2 + x - 6 = 0$ means to find all the roots of the equation. A fourth degree equation has 4 roots.

Step 1 Identify possible real roots.

Possible roots, $\frac{p}{q}$: $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6$

The factors, p , of -6 are $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \pm 6$. The factors, q , of 1 are ± 1 .

Step 2 Graph $y = x^4 + x^3 - 5x^2 + x - 6$.



Step 3 Test 2 as a root using synthetic substitution.

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrrr} 2 & 1 & 1 & -5 & 1 & -6 \\ & & 2 & 6 & 2 & 6 \\ \hline & 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 & 0 \end{array}$$

The remainder is 0, so 2 is a root.
 $(x - 2)(x^3 + 3x^2 + x + 3) = 0$

Test -3 as a root using synthetic substitution.

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} -3 & 1 & 3 & 1 & 3 \\ & & -3 & 0 & -3 \\ \hline & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}$$

The remainder is 0, so -3 is a root.
 $(x - 2)(x + 3)(x^2 + 1) = 0$

Step 4 Find the remaining roots.

$$x^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$x = \pm i$$

The roots of the equation are $2, -3, i$, and $-i$.

Find the roots of the equation $x^4 - 3x^3 + 6x^2 - 12x + 8 = 0$.

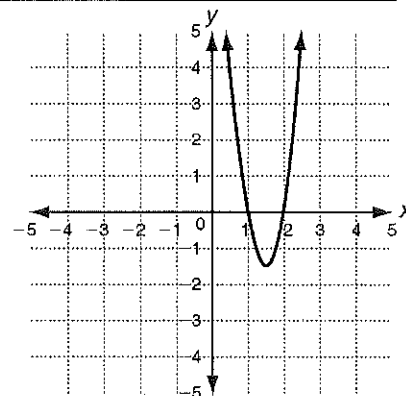
7. Possible roots: $\pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 4, \pm 8$

Test: $x = 1$ and $x = 2$.

1 and 2 are real roots.

Solve $x^2 + 4$ to find the remaining roots.

Remaining roots: $2i$ and $-2i$.



$$7.) \quad x^4 - 3x^3 + 6x^2 - 12x + 8 = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrrr} 1 & 1 & -3 & 6 & -12 & 8 \\ & \downarrow & 1 & -2 & 4 & -8 \\ \hline & 1 & -2 & 4 & -8 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$(x-1)(x^3 - 2x^2 + 4x - 8) = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{r|rrrr} 2 & 1 & -2 & 4 & -8 \\ & \downarrow & 2 & 0 & 8 \\ \hline & 1 & 0 & 4 & 0 \end{array}$$

$$(x-1)(x-2)(x^2 + 4) = 0$$

$$x^2 + 4 = 0$$

$$x^2 = -4$$

$$\sqrt{x^2} = \sqrt{-4}$$

$$\boxed{x = \pm 2i}$$