Vocabulary: Introduction to Exponential Functions



**Vocabulary**

* Asymptote – a line that a graph approaches more and more closely.
	+ For example, the function *y* = 4*x*, which is shown below, has a horizontal asymptote at *y* = 0.
* Exponential function – a function of the form *y* = *a* • *bx*, where *a* ≠ 0, *b* > 0, and *b* ≠ 1.
	+ An exponential function multiplies an initial value (*a*) by the same positive number (*b*) repeatedly.
	+ For example, the function *y* = 4*x*, graphed to the right, is exponential.
		- The “key points” shown on the graph of *y* = 4*x* are (−1, ), (0, 1), and (1, 4).
		- For *y* = 4*x*, every time *x* increases by 1, *y* is multiplied by a factor of 4.