TRANSFORMATIONS Recall from Lesson 7.1 that the graph of a function $y = ab^x$ is a vertical stretch or shrink of the graph of $y = b^x$, and the graph of $y = ab^{x-h} + k$ is a translation of the graph of $y = ab^x$.

EXAMPLE 2 Graph $y = ab^x$ for $0 < b < 1$

CLASSIFY FUNCTIONS

Note that the function in part (b) of Example 2 is not an exponential decay function because $a = -3 < 0$.

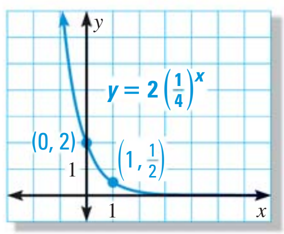
Graph the function.

a. $y = 2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^x$

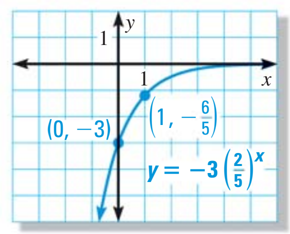
b. $y = -3\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^x$

Solution

a. Plot (0, 2) and $\left(1, \frac{1}{2}\right)$. Then, from *right* to *left*, draw a curve that begins just above the *x*-axis, passes through the two points, and moves up to the left.



b. Plot (0, −3) and $\left(1, -\frac{6}{5}\right)$. Then, from *right* to *left*, draw a curve that begins just below the *x*-axis, passes through the two points, and moves down to the left.



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✓ GUIDED PRACTICE for Examples 1 and 2

Graph the function.

1. $y = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^x$

2. $y = -2\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^x$

3. $f(x) = 4\left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^x$

EXAMPLE 3 Graph $y = ab^{x-h} + k$ for $0 < b < 1$

Graph $y = 3\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{x+1} - 2$. State the domain and range.

Solution

Begin by sketching the graph of $y = 3\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x$, which passes through (0, 3) and $\left(1, \frac{3}{2}\right)$.

Then translate the graph left 1 unit and down 2 units. Notice that the translated graph passes through (−1, 1) and $\left(0, -\frac{1}{2}\right)$.

The graph's asymptote is the line $y = -2$. The domain is all real numbers, and the range is $y > -2$.