Powers and roots

Terms	Definitions	Illustrations
Cube (a number)	When a number is multiplied by itself once, and then again, the number is cubed.	$4^3 = 4 \times 4 \times 4 = 64$
	To indicate this process, a power of 3 is used.	For this example we would say "4 cubed is 64".
Cube root	Finding the cube root is the inverse process of cubing a number.	The cube root of 8 is 2 because 2 cubed is 8.
		This is written $\sqrt[3]{8} = 2$.
Power	The number of times to repeat a multiplication.	$3^4 = 3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 3 = 81$
		For this example we would say "3 to the power 4 is 81".
Square (a number)	When a number is multiplied by itself, the number is squared.	$5^2 = 5 \times 5 = 25$
	To indicate this process, a power of 2 is used.	For this example we would say "5 squared is 25".
Square root	Finding the square root is the inverse process of squaring a number.	The square root of 9 is 3 because 3 squared is 9.
		This is written $\sqrt{9} = 3$.

1 Numeracy and mathematics glossary

Powers and roots

Root	The inverse operation of a power.	
Scientific notation	A standardised way of writing numbers using positive and negative powers of 10.	732000 can be written as 7•32 x 10 ⁵ . 0.00045 can be written as 4•5 x 10 ⁻⁴ .
	Scientific notation is also known as standard form.	