

EXPLORATION 3.19 **Making Sense of Large Numbers**

1. Mars is 34 million miles away. Presently spaceships go about 16,000 miles per hour. How long would it take a spaceship to get to Mars?

2. In 1996 the U.S. federal debt was \$4,643,711,000,000. Let's say a decision was made to pay off that debt in much the same way that an individual pays off a debt, such as a car loan or a home mortgage: by paying back a specified amount of money at regular time intervals.
 - a. Let's say that the decision was made to reduce the debt by \$10 million per day. How long would it take to pay off the debt at this rate?

 - b. Before doing the computations, discuss and note any assumptions that you make.