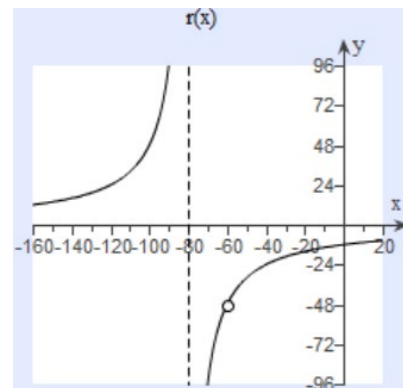


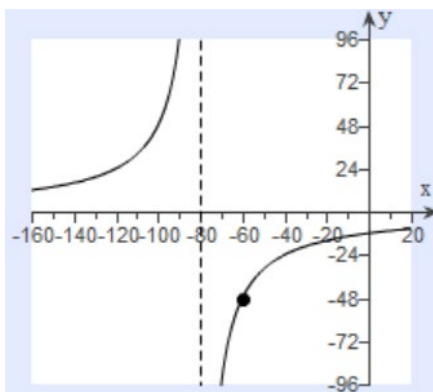
Find a formula for a rational function  $r(x)$  in the form  $y = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$  where  $q(x)$  is the lowest polynomial degree possible, with the following properties.

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -80^-} r(x) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -80^+} r(x) = -\infty$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -60} r(x) = -48$
- $r(-60)$  is undefined.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} r(x) = 0$

The above indicates that we have a vertical asymptote at  $x = -80$  and a hole at  $(-60, -48)$ . To the right is a graph with these properties



**Step 1:** Write a formula of the function without the hole.



**Step 2:** Incorporate the *location* of the vertical asymptote into the formula. This corresponds to the *zero* of the factor. A vertical asymptote occurs at  $x = h$  if the denominator has a factor  $(x - h)$  and the numerator does not.

**Step 3:** Incorporate the *behavior* near the vertical asymptote into the formula. This corresponds to the *power* of the factor.

Near the vertical asymptote  $x = -80$ , the shape  $\left(\frac{+}{-}\right)$  of the graph indicates the power of the factor is **odd**. Mathematically, this is written that from the left ( $\lim_{x \rightarrow -80^-} r(x) = \infty$ ) and from the right ( $\lim_{x \rightarrow -80^+} r(x) = -\infty$ )

Because  $q(x)$  must be the smallest degree possible, the degree of the denominator must be **1**.

So this means the formula is of the form  $y = \frac{k}{x + 80}$  (and in fact we expect  $k$  to be negative based on the graph.)

**Step 4:** Find the formula by plugging in the point  $x = -60, y = -48$  and solve for  $k$ .  $y = \frac{k}{x + 80}$

$$-48 = \frac{k}{-60 + 80}$$

$$-48 = \frac{k}{20}$$

$$k = -48 \cdot (20) = -960$$

Thus  $y = \frac{-960}{x + 80}$ . (Check with a grapher that it passes through the point  $x = -60, y = -48$  using a table feature.)

**Step 5:** Modify the function so it has a hole at  $x = -60$ . Using common factors, we have  $r(x) = \frac{-960(x + 20)}{(x + 80)(x + 20)}$ .