

Module 6b: Altitudes of Triangles

Math Practice(s):

- Attend to precision.
- Look for & make sense of structure.

Learning Target(s):

- Use altitudes in similar triangles to solve for missing values in triangles.

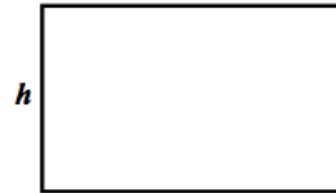
Homework:

HW#7: 6b #1-2

Warm-up

1. Given the rectangle below with base length b and height h , state an equation that represents the formula for determining the area, A , of the rectangle.

$$A = bh$$



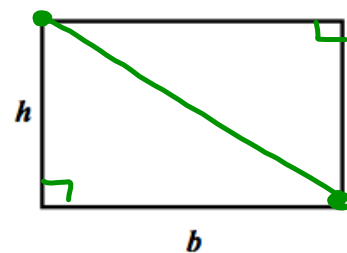
2. Draw a diagonal in the rectangle below (with base length b and height h).

- A. What do you think is true about the two triangles that the diagonal created inside of the rectangle?

- rt Δ s
- same dimensions

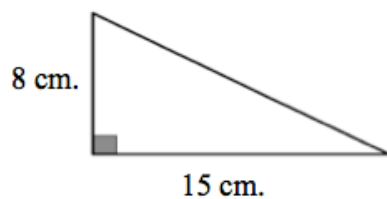
- B. State an equation that represents the formula for determining the area, A , of one of the triangles.

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \cdot bh \quad A = \frac{bh}{2}$$



3. Determine the area of the following triangles.

A.

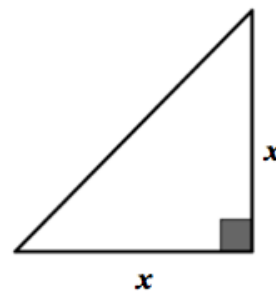


$$A = \frac{1}{2}(8)(15)$$

$$A = 4(15)$$

$$A = 60 \text{ cm}^2$$

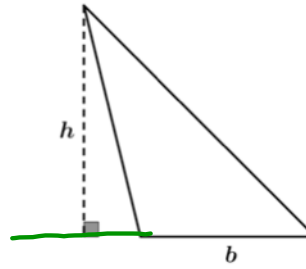
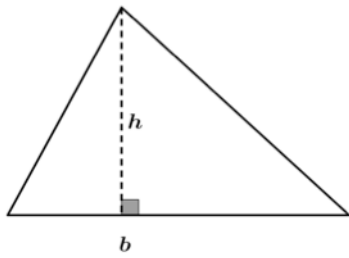
B.



$$A = \frac{1}{2}(x)(x)$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2}x^2$$

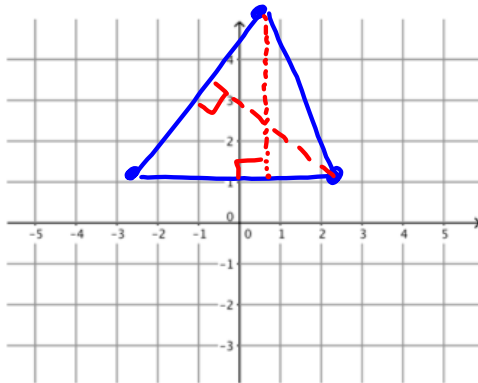
When we want to compute the area of a non-right triangle, we must find an **altitude** to determine the "height" (h) of a triangle.



4. Graph the following points, then draw an altitude where you best see fit.

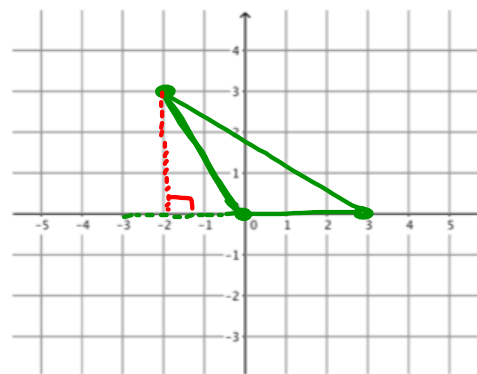
Example 1

Consider the triangle obtained by connecting the points $(-2,0)$, $(3,0)$, and $(0,4)$.



Example 2

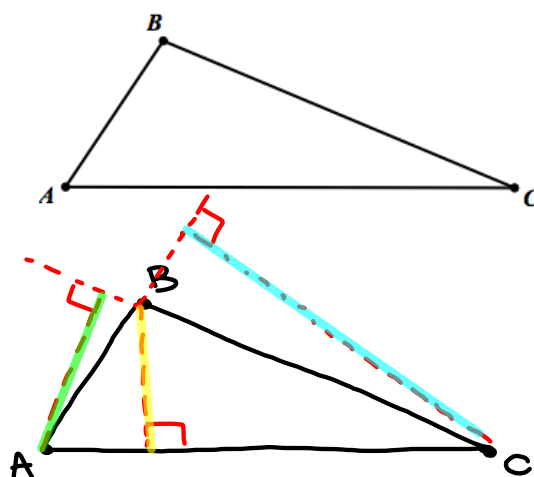
Consider the triangle obtained by connecting the points $(0, 0)$, $(-2, 3)$, and $(3, 0)$.



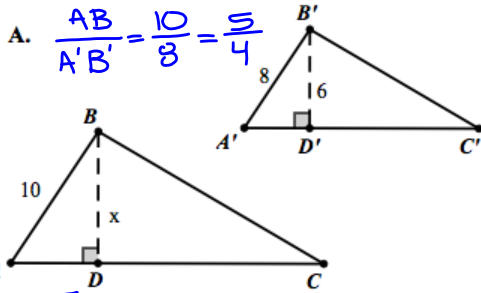
erase to show

Altitude of a Triangle (#VOC): The perpendicular line segment from a vertex to its opposite side.

- Since a triangle has 3 vertices, each triangle has exactly 3 altitudes.



5. Each pair of triangles shown is similar. Determine the value of x . *Figures are not to scale.

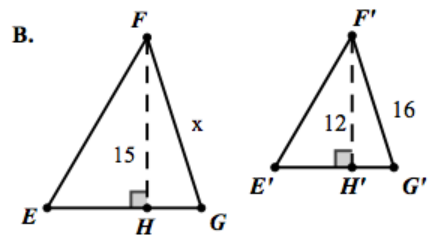


$$\frac{x}{6} = \frac{5}{4}$$

$$4x = 30$$

$$x = \frac{15}{2} \text{ units}$$

$$x = 7.5 \text{ units}$$

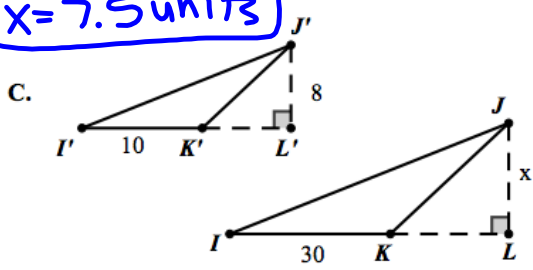


$$\frac{FH}{F'H'} = \frac{15}{12} = \frac{5}{4}$$

$$\frac{5}{4} = \frac{x}{16}$$

$$4x = 80$$

$$x = 20 \text{ units}$$



$$\frac{1}{3} = \frac{8}{x}$$

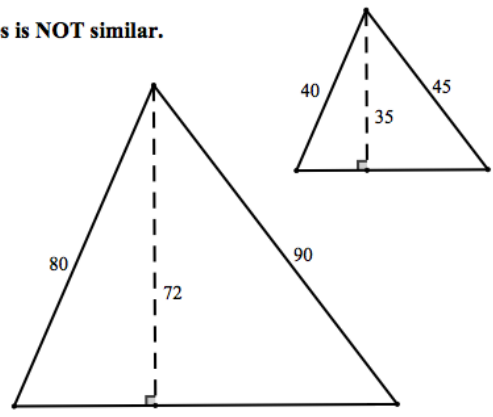
$$x = 24 \text{ units}$$

$$\frac{I'K'}{IK} = \frac{10}{30} = \frac{1}{3}$$

6. Explain why the following pair of triangles is NOT similar.

$$\frac{40}{80} = \frac{45}{90} = \frac{35}{72}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} = \frac{35}{72}$$



To be similar, all dimensions must be proportional.

Since the altitudes do not reduce to $\frac{1}{2}$, like the sides do, the entire pair of triangles are not similar.