

What do I need to be able to do?

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Use square and cube roots
- Identify the hypotenuse
- Calculate the hypotenuse
- Find a missing side in a Right angled triangle
- Use Pythagoras' theorem on axes
- Explore proofs of Pythagoras' theorem

Keywords

Square number: the output of a number multiplied by itself

Square root: a value that can be multiplied by itself to give a square number

Hypotenuse: the largest side on a right angled triangle. Always opposite the right angle.

Opposite: the side opposite the angle of interest

Adjacent: the side next to the angle of interest

Squares and square roots

R



This can also be written as 6^2

$\sqrt{\quad}$ is the square root symbol

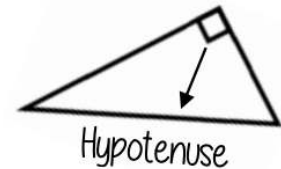
eg $\sqrt{64} = 8$

Because $8 \times 8 = 64$

1 × 1	2 × 2	3 × 3	4 × 4	5 × 5	6 × 6	7 × 7	8 × 8	9 × 9	10 × 10
1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64	81	100

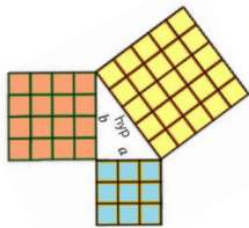
Square numbers

Identify the hypotenuse



The hypotenuse is always the longest side on a triangle because it is opposite the biggest angle.

Determine if a triangle is right-angled



If a triangle is right-angled, the sum of the squares of the shorter sides will equal the square of the hypotenuse.

$$a^2 + b^2 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$$

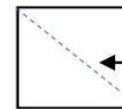
eg $a^2 + b^2 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$

$$3^2 + 4^2 = 5^2$$

$$9 + 16 = 25$$

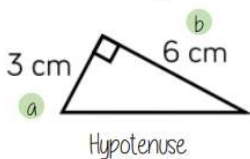
Substituting the numbers into the theorem shows that this is a right-angled triangle.

$a = 3$ $b = 4$ $c = 5$



Polygons can still have a hypotenuse if it is split up into triangles and opposite a right angle.

Calculate the hypotenuse



Either of the short sides can be labelled a or b

$$a^2 + b^2 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$$

1 Substitute in the values for a and b

$$3^2 + 6^2 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$$

$$9 + 36 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$$

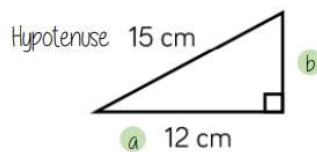
$$45 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$$

2 To find the hypotenuse square root the sum of the squares of the shorter sides

$$\sqrt{45} = \text{hypotenuse}$$

$$6.71\text{cm} = \text{hypotenuse}$$

Calculate missing sides



Either of the short sides can be labelled a or b

$$a^2 + b^2 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$$

$$12^2 + b^2 = 15^2$$

1 Substitute in the values you are given

$$144 + b^2 = 225$$

$$-144 \quad -144$$

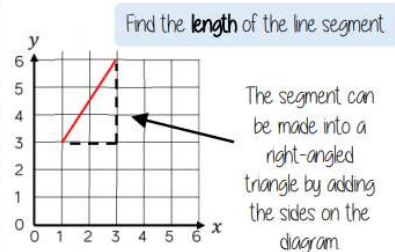
Rearrange the equation by subtracting the shorter square from the hypotenuse squared

Square root to find the length of the side

$$b^2 = 111$$

$$b = \sqrt{111} = 10.54\text{ cm}$$

Pythagoras' theorem on a coordinate axis



Find the length of the line segment

The segment can be made into a right-angled triangle by adding the sides on the diagram.

The line segment is the hypotenuse

$$a^2 + b^2 = \text{hypotenuse}^2$$

The lengths of a and b are the sides of the triangle.

Be careful to check the scale on the axes