

The Pythagorean Theorem

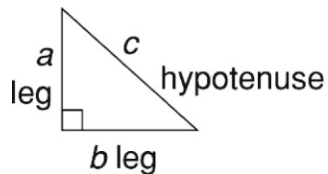
Essential Question: How can you prove the Pythagorean Theorem and use it to solve problems?

Learning Goal: Students will be able to apply the Pythagorean Theorem to determine the unknown side lengths in right triangles in real-world and mathematical problems in two and three dimensions. **MAFS.8.G.2.7 and MAFS.8.G.2.6**

Math Scale:

Notes:

In a right triangle, the two sides that form the right angle are the **legs**. The **side opposite** the right angle is the **hypotenuse**.



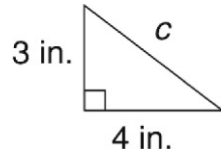
The Pythagorean Theorem:

In a right triangle, the sum of the squares of the lengths of the legs is equal to the square of the length of the hypotenuse.

If **a and **b** are legs and **c** is the hypotenuse,**

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2.$$

Example 1:



Solution 1

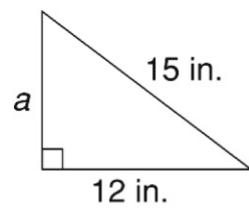
$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$3^2 + 4^2 = c^2$$

$$9 + 16 = c^2$$

$$25 = c^2, \text{ so } c = 5 \text{ in}$$

Example 2:



Solution 2

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$a^2 + 12^2 = 15^2$$

$$a^2 = 225 - 144$$

$$a^2 = 81, \text{ so } a = 9 \text{ in.}$$