

Section 6.3: Use Similar Polygons

Essential Question: If two figures are similar, how do you find the length of a missing side?

VOCABULARY:

Similar Polygons → Symbol is \sim

Two polygons are similar if:

1) Corresponding angles are \cong

AND

2) Corresponding side lengths are proportional

Scale Factor

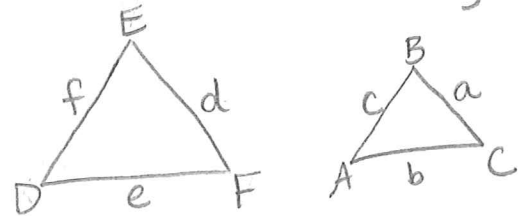
If two polygons are similar then the scale factor (k) is the ratio of the lengths of two corresponding sides



If $\Delta A \sim \Delta B$
then scale factor
 $k = \frac{x}{y}$

Theorem 6.1: Perimeters of Similar Polygons Theorem

If two polygons are similar, then the ratio of their perimeters is equal to the ratios of their corresponding side lengths.



If $\Delta DEF \sim \Delta ABC$
then $\frac{d+e+f}{a+b+c} = \frac{d}{a}$

NOTE: Corresponding lengths in similar triangles include side lengths, altitudes, medians, midsegments, and so on.

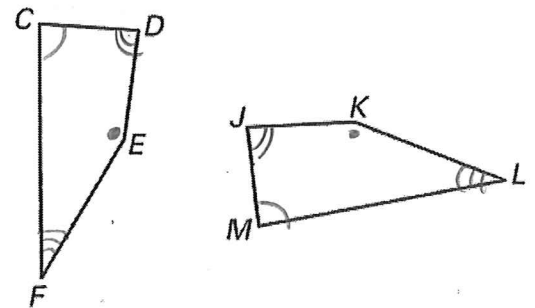
perimeter of $\Delta DEF = d+e+f$
" $\Delta ABC = a+b+c$

EXAMPLES:

A1. In the diagram, $CDEF \sim MJKL$.

a) List all pairs of congruent angles.

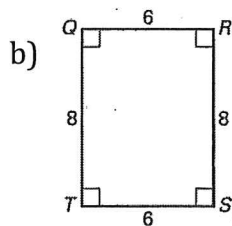
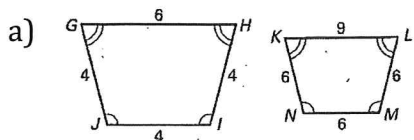
$\angle C \cong \angle M$
 $\angle D \cong \angle J$
 $\angle E \cong \angle K$
 $\angle F \cong \angle L$



b) Write the ratios of corresponding side lengths in a statement of proportionality.

$\frac{CD}{MJ} = \frac{DE}{JK} = \frac{EF}{KL} = \frac{FC}{LM}$

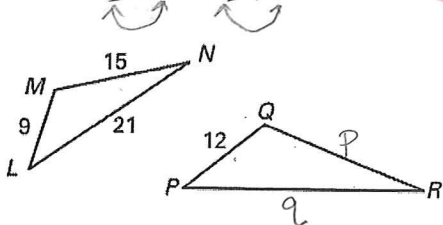
A2. Determine if the polygons are similar. If they are, write a similarity statement and give the scale factor.



① corresponding \angle 's \cong ✓
 ② $\frac{6 \div 3}{9} = \frac{4 \div 2}{6} = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$
 $\frac{4}{3} = \frac{4}{3} = \frac{4}{3} = \frac{4}{3}$
 corresponding sides proportional ✓
 scale factor = $K = \frac{2}{3}$ GHIJ ~ KLMN

① corresponding \angle 's \cong
 ② $\frac{8 \div 2}{6} = \frac{?}{3}$ sides
 $\frac{4}{3} \neq \frac{2}{1}$ Not proportional
 \therefore Not similar

A3. Use $\triangle LMN \sim \triangle PQR$ to find a scale factor. Then find the missing side lengths.



$$\frac{LM}{PQ} = \frac{MN}{QR} = \frac{LN}{RP}$$

$$\frac{LM}{PQ} = \frac{9}{12} = \frac{3}{4} = K = \text{scale factor}$$

① Set up proportion

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{15}{QR} \rightarrow 3(QR) = 4(15)$$

$$\frac{3}{4} = \frac{21}{RP} \rightarrow 3(RP) = 4(21)$$

② cross multiply

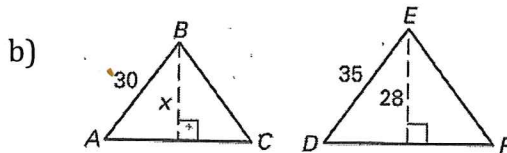
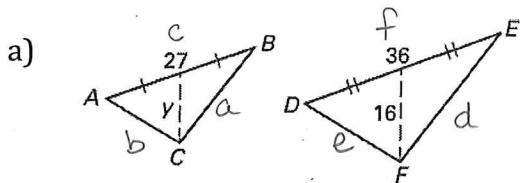
$$3(QR) = \frac{60}{3}$$

$$\frac{3(RP) = 84}{3}$$

③ divide QR = 20

RP = 28

A4. In the figure, $\triangle ABC \sim \triangle DEF$. Find the value of the variable AND indicate the type of special segment shown as a dashed segment.



$$\frac{AB}{y} = \frac{DE}{16} \rightarrow \frac{c}{y} = \frac{f}{16}$$

$$\frac{27}{y} = \frac{36}{16}$$

cross multiply
 $36y = 27(16)$
 $36y = 432$
 $\frac{36y}{36} = \frac{432}{36}$

Median

(bisects side opposite of vertex)

y = 12

$$\frac{AB}{x} = \frac{DE}{28} \rightarrow \frac{30}{x} = \frac{35}{28}$$

$$35x = 30(28)$$

$$\frac{35x = 840}{35} = \frac{840}{35}$$

x = 24

Altitude

(\perp to opp side of vertex)

- A5. The corresponding median lengths of similar triangles $\triangle XYZ$ and $\triangle MNO$ have a ratio of 5:3. The perimeter of $\triangle MNO$ is 87 inches. What is the perimeter of $\triangle XYZ$?

$$\frac{\text{perimeter}(\triangle XYZ)}{\text{perimeter}(\triangle MNO)} = \frac{5}{3} \rightarrow \frac{\triangle XYZ}{87} = \frac{5}{3} \quad \frac{87(5)}{3} = 145 \text{ in} = \text{Perimeter of } \triangle XYZ$$

- A6. Triangles JAN and FEB are similar. The sides of $\triangle JAN$ are 22 cm, 30 cm, and 17 cm. The longest side of $\triangle FEB$ is 100 cm. What is $\triangle FEB$'s perimeter?

$$\frac{JAN}{FEB} = \frac{30}{100} = \frac{3}{10} = K \quad \frac{3}{10} = \frac{69}{FEB} \rightarrow \frac{10(69)}{3} = 230$$

$$\text{per. of } JAN = 22 + 30 + 17 = 69 \text{ cm}$$

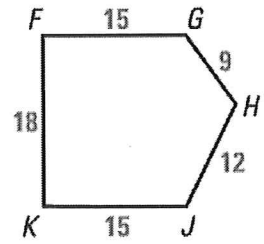
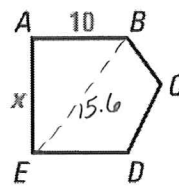
$$\text{Per. of } \triangle FEB = 230 \text{ cm}$$

- A7. In the diagram, $ABCDE \sim FGHIJK$. The measures are in inches.

- a) Find the scale factor of $FGHIJK$ to $ABCDE$.

$$\frac{FG}{AB} = \frac{15}{10} \div 5 = \frac{3}{2} = K$$

Note: $\frac{F}{A} = \frac{3}{2}$, but $\frac{A}{F} = \frac{2}{3}$



- b) Find the value of x.

$$\frac{\text{Fig F}}{\text{Fig A}} = \frac{3}{2} = \frac{FK}{AE}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = \frac{18}{x} \quad 3x = 2(18) \quad x = \frac{2(18)}{3}$$

$$x = 12 \text{ in}$$

- c) If $BE = 15.6$ in, find GK .

$$\frac{3}{2} = \frac{GK}{BE}$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = \frac{GK}{15.6} \rightarrow GK = \frac{3(15.6)}{2}$$

$$GK = 23.4 \text{ in}$$

Section 6.3 Summary:

Similar figures have proportional sides. You can find the scale factor by writing and reducing a ratio of two corresponding sides. Then set up a proportion using the scale factor and the corresponding side to the unknown side length. Cross multiply, then divide to solve for the unknown side length.

(See ex #3)