

Special Right Triangles Answer Key

Name ANSWER KEY Date _____ Block _____

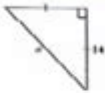
Two Special Right Triangles HOMEWORK

Show work for full credit.

Give your answers in exact form unless otherwise indicated.
All measurements are in centimeters.

In Exercises 1-3, find the unknown lengths.

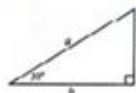
1. $a = 14\sqrt{2}$ cm



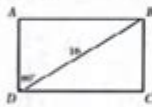
2. $a = 12$ cm, $b = 24$ cm



3. $a = 12$ cm, $b = 6\sqrt{3}$ cm

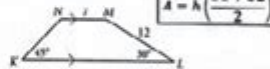


4. Find the area of rectangle ABCD.



$$A = 64\sqrt{3} \text{ cm}^2$$

5. Find the perimeter and area of KLMN.



$$P = 32 + 6\sqrt{2} + 6\sqrt{3} \text{ cm}$$

$$A = 60 + 18\sqrt{3} \text{ cm}^2$$

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Special Right Triangles Answer Key: Mastering 30-60-90 and 45-45-90 Triangles

Are you struggling with special right triangles? Finding the right answers can feel like navigating a maze, especially when you're dealing with the 30-60-90 and 45-45-90 triangles. This comprehensive guide provides not just a simple "special right triangles answer key," but a deep understanding of these essential geometric shapes. We'll break down the key concepts, provide example problems with solutions, and equip you with the tools to confidently solve any special right triangle problem you encounter. Get ready to master these triangles!

Understanding Special Right Triangles: The Foundation

Before diving into specific examples and answer keys, let's solidify the foundation. Special right triangles are right-angled triangles with specific angle measures and side ratios. Understanding these ratios is the key to unlocking their solutions.

The 45-45-90 Triangle (Isosceles Right Triangle)

This triangle has two equal angles (45 degrees each) and one right angle (90 degrees). The ratio of its sides is always $1:1:\sqrt{2}$. This means that if the two legs (the sides adjacent to the right angle) have length 'x', the hypotenuse (the side opposite the right angle) will have length $x\sqrt{2}$.

Key Formula: 45-45-90 Triangle

Leg = x

Leg = x

Hypotenuse = $x\sqrt{2}$

The 30-60-90 Triangle

This triangle has angles of 30, 60, and 90 degrees. Its side ratios are $1:\sqrt{3}:2$. If the side opposite the 30-degree angle (the shorter leg) has length 'x', then the side opposite the 60-degree angle (the longer leg) will have length $x\sqrt{3}$, and the hypotenuse will have length 2x.

Key Formula: 30-60-90 Triangle

Short Leg (opposite 30°): x

Long Leg (opposite 60°): $x\sqrt{3}$

Hypotenuse: 2x

Solving Special Right Triangles: Step-by-Step Examples

Let's work through some examples to illustrate how to use these ratios to find missing side lengths. Consider this as your "special right triangles answer key" in action.

Example 1: 45-45-90 Triangle

A 45-45-90 triangle has a leg of length 5 cm. Find the length of the hypotenuse.

Solution:

Since the ratio of legs to hypotenuse is $1:1:\sqrt{2}$, and we know one leg is 5 cm, the hypotenuse is $5\sqrt{2}$ cm.

Example 2: 30-60-90 Triangle

A 30-60-90 triangle has a hypotenuse of length 10 cm. Find the lengths of the other two sides.

Solution:

The ratio is $1:\sqrt{3}:2$. Since the hypotenuse is $2x$ and is 10 cm, x (the short leg) is 5 cm. The long leg is $x\sqrt{3}$, which is $5\sqrt{3}$ cm.

Example 3: Advanced Problem - 30-60-90 Triangle

The longer leg of a 30-60-90 triangle measures $6\sqrt{3}$ cm. Find the length of the shorter leg and the hypotenuse.

Solution:

We know the long leg (opposite 60°) is $x\sqrt{3} = 6\sqrt{3}$ cm. Therefore, x (the short leg) = 6 cm. The hypotenuse is $2x = 12$ cm.

Troubleshooting Common Mistakes

Many students struggle with simplifying radicals (like $\sqrt{2}$ and $\sqrt{3}$). Remember to simplify them whenever possible. For example, $\sqrt{8}$ can be simplified to $2\sqrt{2}$. Also, be mindful of which side is opposite which angle. Always carefully label your diagram.

Conclusion: Mastering Your Special Right Triangles

By understanding the fundamental ratios of 45-45-90 and 30-60-90 triangles and practicing with examples, you'll develop a solid grasp of solving these types of problems. Remember to utilize the provided formulas and carefully analyze the given information to determine the correct approach.

With consistent practice, you'll find that solving special right triangles becomes second nature.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why are these triangles called "special"? They're called special because their consistent angle ratios allow for quick and easy calculations of side lengths without the need for complex trigonometric functions like sine, cosine, or tangent.
2. Can I use the Pythagorean Theorem with special right triangles? Yes, absolutely! The Pythagorean Theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) still applies. However, the special ratios provide a more efficient method for solving these specific triangles.
3. What if I'm given the area of a special right triangle? You can use the area formula ($\frac{1}{2}$ base height) along with the special triangle ratios to solve for the side lengths.
4. Are there other types of special right triangles? While 45-45-90 and 30-60-90 are the most commonly encountered, other triangles with specific angle and side relationships exist in more advanced geometry.
5. Where can I find more practice problems? Numerous online resources and textbooks offer practice problems on special right triangles. Search for "special right triangle practice problems" to find suitable materials.

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to change how we're teaching this discipline. *Helping Children Learn Mathematics* provides comprehensive and reliable information that will guide efforts to improve school mathematics from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. The authors explain the five strands of mathematical proficiency and discuss the major changes that need to be made in mathematics instruction, instructional materials, assessments, teacher education, and the broader educational system and answers some of the frequently asked questions when it comes to mathematics instruction. The book concludes by providing recommended actions for parents and caregivers, teachers, administrators, and policy makers, stressing the importance that everyone work together to ensure a mathematically literate society.

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