

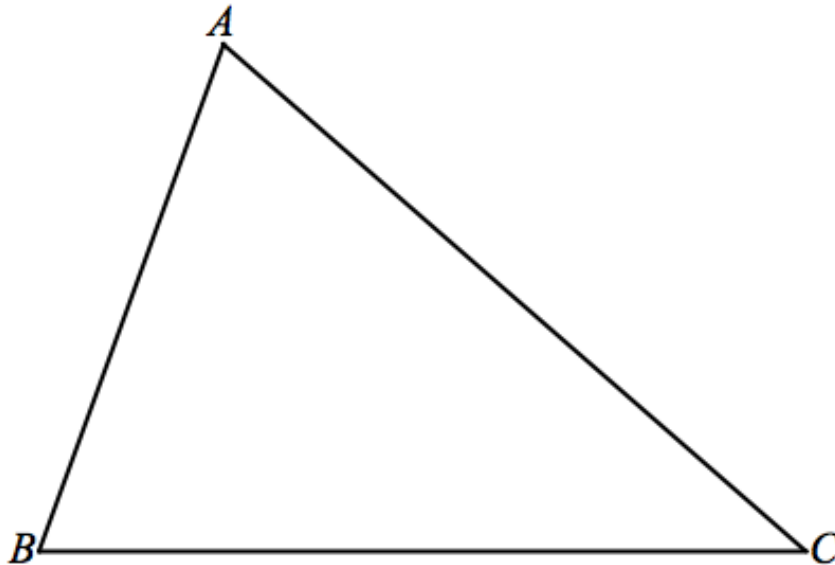
Lesson 29: Special Lines in Triangles

Classwork

Opening Exercise

Construct the midsegment of the triangle below. A midsegment is a line segment that joins the midpoints of two sides of a triangle or trapezoid. For the moment, we will work with a triangle.

1. Use your compass and straightedge to determine the midpoints of \overline{AB} and \overline{AC} as X and Y , respectively.
2. Draw midsegment \overline{XY} .



Compare $\angle AXY$ and $\angle ABC$; compare $\angle AYX$ and $\angle ACB$. Without using a protractor, what would you guess is the relationship between these two pairs of angles? What are the implications of this relationship?

Discussion

Note that though we chose to determine the midsegment of \overline{AB} and \overline{AC} , we could have chosen any two sides to work with. Let us now focus on the properties associated with a midsegment.

The midsegment of a triangle is parallel to the third side of the triangle and half the length of the third side of the triangle.

We can prove these properties to be true. You will continue to work with the figure from the Opening Exercise.

Given: \overline{XY} is a midsegment of $\triangle ABC$

Prove: $\overline{XY} \parallel \overline{BC}$ and $XY = \frac{1}{2}BC$

Construct the following: In the Opening Exercise figure, draw triangle $\triangle YGC$ according to the following steps. Extend \overline{XY} to point G so that $YG = XY$. Draw \overline{GC} .

- (1) What is the relationship between XY and YG ? Explain why. _____

- (2) What is the relationship between $\angle AYX$ and $\angle GYC$? Explain why. _____

- (3) What is the relationship between \overline{AY} and \overline{YC} ? Explain why. _____

- (4) What is the relationship between $\triangle AXY$ and $\triangle CGY$? Explain why. _____

- (5) What is the relationship between GC and AX ? Explain why. _____

- (6) Since $AX = BX$, what other conclusion can be drawn? Explain why. _____

- (7) What is the relationship between $\angle AXY$ and $\angle YGC$? Explain why. _____

(8) Based on (7), what other conclusion can be drawn about \overline{AB} and \overline{GC} ? Explain why. _____

(9) What conclusion can be drawn about $BXGC$ based on (7) and (8)? Explain why. _____

(10) Based on (9), what is the relationship between XG and BC ? _____

(11) Since $YG = XY$, $XG =$ _____ XY . Explain why. _____

(12) This means $BC =$ _____ XY . Explain why. _____

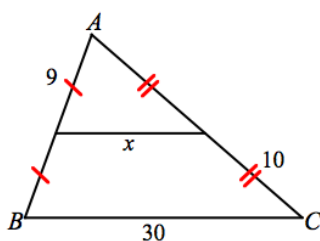
(13) Or by division, $XY =$ _____ BC .

Note that steps (9) and (13) demonstrate our ‘Prove’ statement.

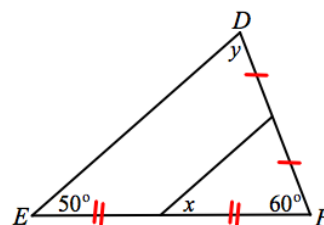
Exercises 1–4

Apply what you know about the properties of midsegments to solve the following examples.

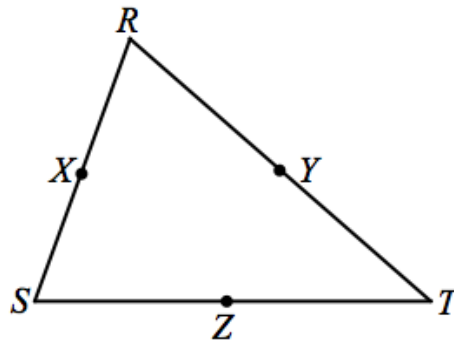
1. $x =$ _____
Perimeter of $\triangle ABC =$ _____



2. $x =$ _____
 $y =$ _____



3. In $\triangle RST$, the midpoints of each side have been marked by points X , Y , and Z .
- Mark the halves of each side divided by the midpoint with a congruency mark. Remember to distinguish congruency marks for each side.
 - Draw midsegments XY , YZ , and XZ . Mark each midsegment with the appropriate congruency mark from the sides of the triangle.



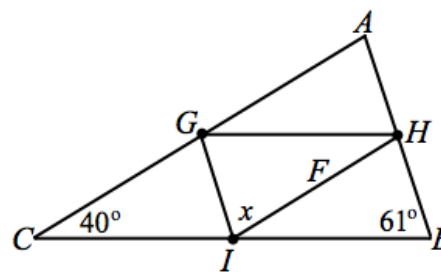
- a. What conclusion can you draw about the four triangles within $\triangle RST$? Explain Why. _____

- b. State the appropriate correspondences among the four triangles within $\triangle RST$. _____

- c. State a correspondence between $\triangle RST$ and any one of the four small triangles. _____

4. Find x .

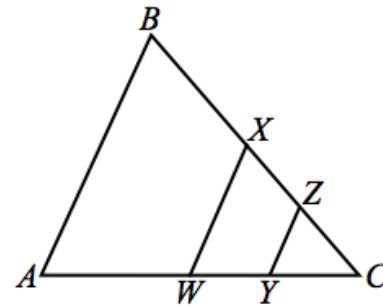
$x =$ _____



Problem Set

Use your knowledge of triangle congruence criteria to write proofs for each of the following problems.

1. \overline{WX} is a midsegment of $\triangle ABC$, and \overline{YZ} is a midsegment of $\triangle CWX$. $BX = AW$.
 - a. What can you conclude about $\angle A$ and $\angle B$? Explain why.
 - b. What is the relationship in length between \overline{YZ} and \overline{AB} ?



2. $W, X, Y,$ and Z are the midpoints of $\overline{AD}, \overline{AB}, \overline{BC},$ and \overline{CD} respectively. $AD = 18, WZ = 11,$ and $BX = 5$. $m\angle WAC = 33^\circ, m\angle RYX = 74^\circ$.
 - a. $\angle DZW =$ _____
 - b. Perimeter of $ABYW =$ _____
 - c. Perimeter of $ABCD =$ _____
 - d. $m\angle WAX =$ _____
 $m\angle B =$ _____
 $m\angle YCZ =$ _____
 $m\angle D =$ _____
 - e. What kind of quadrilateral is $ABCD$?

