

Applying the Pythagorean Theorem

Name: _____ Date: _____ Score: _____ / 24

Q Quick Review

The **Pythagorean Theorem** ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) solves real problems whenever you can spot a *right triangle*. Look for square corners: a wall meeting the ground, the sides of a rectangle, a flag pole standing upright. The **diagonal** of a rectangle is the hypotenuse of a right triangle made from its length and width. To use the theorem, decide which sides are the *legs* and which is the *hypotenuse*, then either add the squares (to find the hypotenuse) or subtract (to find a leg). Always check that your answer is a sensible length.

◇ **Example:** A rectangular field is 40 m long and 30 m wide. How long is the diagonal walking path across it?
 ⇒ The diagonal cuts the rectangle into two right triangles. The length and width are the two legs: $a = 40$ and $b = 30$. The diagonal is the hypotenuse c . Apply $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$: $40^2 + 30^2 = 1600 + 900 = 2500$. So $c = \sqrt{2500} = 50$. The diagonal path is 50 meters long.

Answer: 50 m

PRACTICE

Solve each problem using the Pythagorean Theorem.

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|---|---|
| 1. Rectangle 6×8 : diagonal _____ | 12. Right triangle legs 10, 24 : hypotenuse _____ |
| 2. Rectangle 9×12 : diagonal _____ | 13. Boat: east 24, north 7. Straight-line distance? _____ |
| 3. Rectangle 5×12 : diagonal _____ | 14. Walk: east 15, north 20. Straight-line distance? _____ |
| 4. Rectangle 8×15 : diagonal _____ | 15. Kite string 25, ground distance 24. Height? _____ |
| 5. Rectangle 20×21 : diagonal _____ | 16. Square with side 6 : diagonal _____ |
| 6. Ladder: base 9, reach up 12. Length? _____ | 17. Rectangle 12×35 : diagonal _____ |
| 7. Ladder: base 7, reach up 24. Length? _____ | 18. Slide: ladder height 9, slide length 41. Base distance? _____ |
| 8. Wire: pole 8, stake 6 away. Length? _____ | 19. Rectangle 18×24 : diagonal _____ |
| 9. Wire 13, pole 5. Distance to stake? _____ | 20. Right triangle legs 16, 30 : hypotenuse _____ |
| 10. Ramp 17, horizontal run 15. Height? _____ | |
| 11. TV screen 16×12 : diagonal _____ | |

◆ Word Problems

- A baseball diamond is a square with sides 90 ft. Actually, consider a smaller practice diamond: a square with sides 60 ft. How far is the throw from home plate diagonally to second base? Round to the nearest tenth. _____
- A boat sails 24 km east, then turns and sails 7 km north. How far is the boat from its starting point in a straight line? _____
- A 25 ft ladder leans against a building with its base 7 ft from the wall. How high up the wall does the ladder reach? _____
- A rectangular computer monitor is 16 in wide and 12 in tall. Monitors are advertised by their diagonal size. What is this monitor's diagonal size? _____



Answer Keys

- | | |
|--------|-------------------|
| 1. 10 | 13. 25 |
| 2. 15 | 14. 25 |
| 3. 13 | 15. 7 |
| 4. 17 | 16. $6\sqrt{2}$ |
| 5. 29 | 17. 37 |
| 6. 15 | 18. 40 |
| 7. 25 | 19. 30 |
| 8. 10 | 20. 34 |
| 9. 12 | 21. about 84.9 ft |
| 10. 8 | 22. 25 km |
| 11. 20 | 23. 24 ft |
| 12. 26 | 24. 20 in |

Step-by-Step Explanations

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|---|---|
| <p>1. $6^2 + 8^2 = 36 + 64 = 100$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{100} = 10$.</p> <p>2. $9^2 + 12^2 = 81 + 144 = 225$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{225} = 15$.</p> <p>3. $5^2 + 12^2 = 25 + 144 = 169$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{169} = 13$.</p> <p>4. $8^2 + 15^2 = 64 + 225 = 289$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{289} = 17$.</p> <p>5. $20^2 + 21^2 = 400 + 441 = 841$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{841} = 29$.</p> <p>6. $9^2 + 12^2 = 81 + 144 = 225$, so the ladder is $\sqrt{225} = 15$.</p> <p>7. $7^2 + 24^2 = 49 + 576 = 625$, so the ladder is $\sqrt{625} = 25$.</p> <p>8. $8^2 + 6^2 = 64 + 36 = 100$, so the wire is $\sqrt{100} = 10$.</p> <p>9. $13^2 - 5^2 = 169 - 25 = 144$, so the distance is $\sqrt{144} = 12$.</p> <p>10. $17^2 - 15^2 = 289 - 225 = 64$, so the height is $\sqrt{64} = 8$.</p> <p>11. $16^2 + 12^2 = 256 + 144 = 400$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{400} = 20$.</p> <p>12. $10^2 + 24^2 = 100 + 576 = 676$, so the hypotenuse is $\sqrt{676} = 26$.</p> <p>13. $24^2 + 7^2 = 576 + 49 = 625$, so the distance is $\sqrt{625} = 25$.</p> <p>14. $15^2 + 20^2 = 225 + 400 = 625$, so the distance is $\sqrt{625} = 25$.</p> | <p>15. $25^2 - 24^2 = 625 - 576 = 49$, so the height is $\sqrt{49} = 7$.</p> <p>16. $6^2 + 6^2 = 72$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{72} = 6\sqrt{2}$.</p> <p>17. $12^2 + 35^2 = 144 + 1225 = 1369$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{1369} = 37$.</p> <p>18. $41^2 - 9^2 = 1681 - 81 = 1600$, so the base distance is $\sqrt{1600} = 40$.</p> <p>19. $18^2 + 24^2 = 324 + 576 = 900$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{900} = 30$.</p> <p>20. $16^2 + 30^2 = 256 + 900 = 1156$, so the hypotenuse is $\sqrt{1156} = 34$.</p> <p>21. The diagonal is the hypotenuse: $60^2 + 60^2 = 3600 + 3600 = 7200$, so the throw is $\sqrt{7200} \approx 84.9$ ft.</p> <p>22. The two legs of the right triangle are 24 and 7: $24^2 + 7^2 = 576 + 49 = 625$, so the straight-line distance is $\sqrt{625} = 25$ km.</p> <p>23. The ladder is the hypotenuse and the base distance is a leg: $25^2 - 7^2 = 625 - 49 = 576$, so the height is $\sqrt{576} = 24$ ft.</p> <p>24. The diagonal is the hypotenuse of a right triangle with legs 16 and 12: $16^2 + 12^2 = 256 + 144 = 400$, so the diagonal is $\sqrt{400} = 20$ in.</p> |
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