

Geometry and Measurement

Area of a Triangle

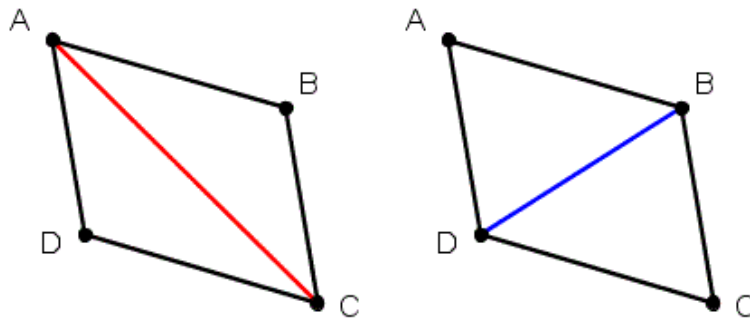
What is a triangle?

A triangle is a three sided polygon.

How are a triangle and a parallelogram related?

There are two triangles inside every parallelogram as you can see in the picture below.

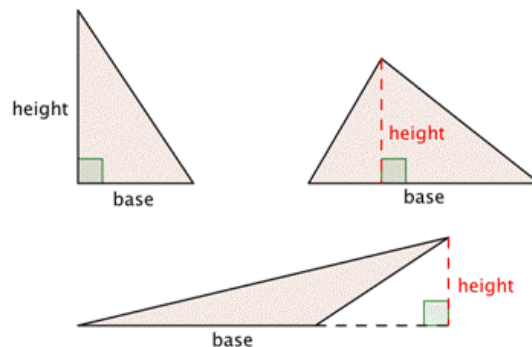
For this reason the formula for area of a triangle is similar to the formula for area of parallelogram.



What is the formula for the area of a triangle?

The formula for area of a triangle is: $A = \frac{bh}{2}$

The formula is halved because a triangle is half the size of a parallelogram. You still have to make sure that you determine the height of the triangle because it too must be perpendicular to the base of the triangle. See examples below.



The formula can be written a couple of different ways with or without using the multiplication sign.

$$A = \frac{b \times h}{2}$$

$$\text{OR} \quad A = \frac{bh}{2}$$

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Find the area of the two triangles below. We will always copy down the formula and show our work.

