

9-3 The Law of Sines

Prove the Law of Sine's from the area of a triangle.

$$K = \frac{1}{2}ab\sin C = \frac{1}{2}bc\sin A = \frac{1}{2}ac\sin B$$

1. A civil engineer wants to determine the distances from points A and B to an inaccessible point C. From direct measurement the engineer knows that $AB = 25m$, $m\angle A = 110^\circ$, and $m\angle B = 20^\circ$. Draw $\triangle ABC$ and find AC and BC .

Activity

For this activity, use a ruler, compass and protractor. Draw $\angle A$ with a measure of 30° . Along one ray of $\angle A$, locate point C, 10cm from point A. For each of the following compass settings, draw a large arc. Then tell whether the arc crosses the other ray of $\angle A$ and, if so, in how many points.

- a. Compass at C and open to 4 cm
- b. Compass at C and open to 5cm
- c. Compass at C and open to 6 cm

Now show your answers in Activity 1 agree with what the law of sines would give in each of the following SSA situations.

a. If $\angle A = 30^\circ$, $b = 10$, and $a = 4$, and $\angle B$

b. If $\angle A = 30^\circ$, $b = 10$, and $a = 5$, and $\angle B$

c. If $\angle A = 30^\circ$, $b = 10$, and $a = 6$, and $\angle B$

Problem: Find all parts of the triangle if $\angle B = 36^\circ$, $a = 10$, $b = 8$.