

Teacher Notes

Objective

- To discover the tangent ratio in a right triangle using similar triangles.

The Tangent Ratio

In this activity students explore the tangent ratio. Students construct a right triangle using perpendicular lines, and a line that forms the hypotenuse of the triangle. When students construct the hypotenuse line it is very important that the second point that forms the line is not on the perpendicular line. When done correctly, moving point C will produce similar triangles. Be sure students understand the tangent ratio and its relationship in similar triangles.