Robert F. Babler<br>Niles High School<br>rfbabler@remc11.k12.mi.us

Triangles: triangle inequalities

## Exterior Angle Theorem

NCTM standard: Analyze characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes and develop mathematical arguments about geometric relationships.

Analyze properties and determine attributes of two- and three-dimensional objects.
Introduction: This application shows the relationship between an exterior angle of a triangle and the two remote interior angles.

1) Turn the calculator on.
2) Press APPS. Press 1:FLASHAPPS:Sketchpad, then press ENTER.
3) Press 2nd F3 to get to the Toolbox. Highlight the Segment tool.


Press ENTER. Move the cursor to the bottom right, press ENTER, move the cursor to the bottom left, press ENTER twice. Move the cursor back to the right a little ways on the segment, press ENTER twice, then move the cursor up and right.


Press ENTER twice. Finally, move the cursor back to the original point. Press ENTER, then ESC twice.

4) The angle formed by the outside of the triangle and the segment extended from the triangle is called an exterior angle. Measure it. Highlight the left point of the segment, then the left point of the triangle then the top point of the triangle. Press F5 5:Angle. Record the value in the table below for Triangle 1. Hide the measure by pressing F2:1:Hide.
5) The top angle of the triangle will be called remote interior angle 1 (one of the angles of the triangle not adjacent to the exterior angle), while the left angle will be remote interior angle 2 . Measure each angle. Press ESC, then highlight the left point of the triangle, then the top point, then the right point. Press F5 5:angle. Record the value in the table below. Press ESC twice, and repeat the steps for the second remote interior angle. This time, the right point of the triangle should be the second one highlighted. Record the value in the table below.
6) What do you notice about the exterior angle compared to either remote interior angle? $\qquad$
7) Add the two remote angles together and record the sum. What do you notice about the sum of the two remote angles compared with the exterior angle?
8) Try seeing if this holds for another triangle. Press F1 5:Select All, then press F1 3:Delete. Repeat steps 3-5, but try making the triangle obtuse by going back on the segment and then going up and left.


Does everything still hold true? $\qquad$
9) The reason:

What do the interior angles of a triangle add up to be? $\qquad$
What is the angle measure of a straight line?
What does the angle next to the exterior angle and the exterior angle form?
What does the angle next to the exterior angle and the two remote interior angles form?
They are both 180 degrees, and both have the angle next to the exterior angle in common, so take that away from both situations, and you see that the exterior angle is the same as the sum of the two remote interiors.

| triangle | exterior angle | remote interior <br> angle 1 | remote interior <br> angle 2 | remote 1 + remote 2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |

