

Arcs and Central Angles of Circles

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Name _____

Period _____

Date _____

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Activity Overview

Students discover the central angles of circles plus minor and major arcs.

Concepts

- Central Angles
- Minor Arcs
- Major Arcs

Tennessee Standards

- Geometry
 - 3108.4.40 Find angle measures, intercepted arc measures, and segment lengths formed by radii, chords, secants, and tangents intersecting inside and outside circles.
 - 3108.5.1 Determine the area of each sector and the degree measure of each intercepted arc in a pie chart.

Teacher Preparation

- Load or have the students load the tns file: arcs and central angles of circles.tns
- Copy the student activity sheet: Arcs and Central Angles of Circles Student Activity Sheet

TI Nspire Applications

Graphs & Geometry

Calculator

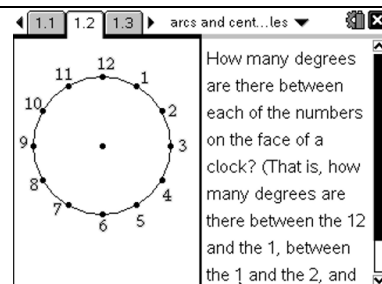
Notes

Page 1.2

Using the angle measurement tool, find the measure of the angle between each number on the face of a clock with the center of the circle as the vertex of the angle. (That is, how many degrees are there between the 12 and the 1, between the 1 and the 2, and so forth?)

How many degrees are there between each of the numbers on the face of a clock?

Students should find that the measurement between each number is 30° with the total number of degrees = 360° .



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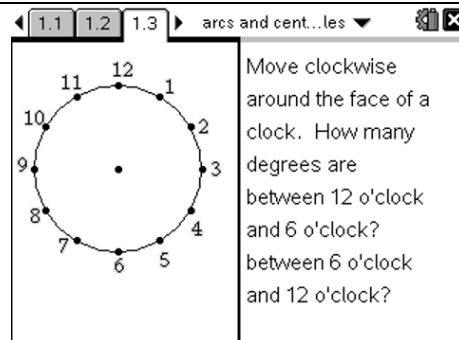
Page 1.3

Using the angle measurement tool, move clockwise around the face of a clock.

How many degrees are
 between 12 o'clock and 3 o'clock? _____
 between 3 and 6? _____
 between 6 and 9? _____
 between 9 and 12? _____

What is the total number of degrees?

Students should find that the measurement between each number is 90° with the total number of degrees = 360° .



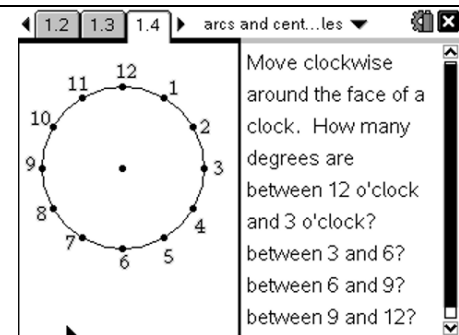
Page 1.4

Using the angle measurement tool, move clockwise around the face of a clock.

How many degrees are
 between 12 o'clock and 6 o'clock? _____
 between 6 o'clock and 12 o'clock? _____

What is the total number of degrees?

Students should find that the measurement between each number is 180° with the total number of degrees = 360° .



Page 1.5

On pages 1.2 – 1.4, you have been finding central angles of the clock face. A **central angle** is an angle whose vertex is the center of the circle.

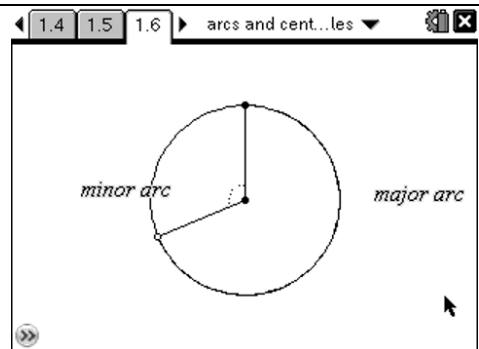
The part of the circle between each number is a **minor arc**. The remaining part of the circle is a **major arc**.

Arcs and Central Angles of Circles

TEACHER GUIDE

Page 1.6

Grab the open point and move it around the circle.
Notice the major arcs and the minor arcs.

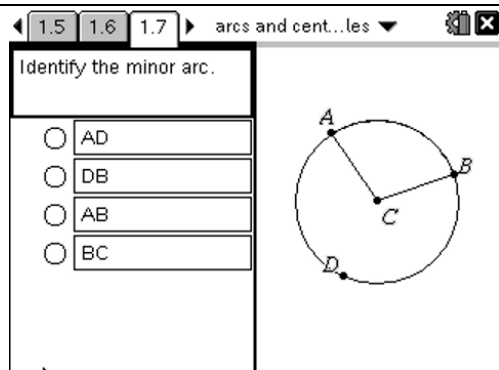


Pages 1.7 – 1.10

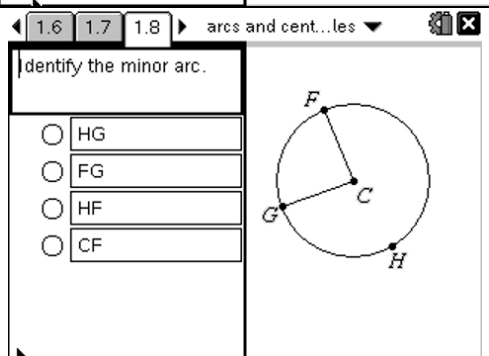
Identify the minor arc and major arc of the circles.
Check your answers by choosing:

 Check answers

Correct answer: AB



Correct answer: FG



Arcs and Central Angles of Circles

TEACHER GUIDE

Correct Answer : ADB

Correct answer: SRT

Page 1.11

Measure the remaining angles to verify that they are the same measure as $\angle AOB$.

Arc AB is one-sixth ($60/360$) of the total circle.

To find the length of arc AB

find the circumference of the circle $2\pi r = 37.70$
 multiply the circumference by $1/6$ $37.70 \times (1/6) = 6.28$

Find the length of arc AC

arc AC is what part of the total circle? $120/360$ or $1/3$
 multiply by circumference $37.70 \times 1/3 = 12.57$

Find the length of arc AD

arc AD is what part of the total circle? $180/360 = 1/2$
 multiply by circumference $37.70 \times 1/2 = 18.87$

How do you think you would find the measure of the major arcs?

Answer may vary. Example: Subtract the minor arc from the circumference.