

# ACC: 8.1 GEOMETRIC MEAN NOTES

**Geometric Mean** When the means of a proportion are the same number, that number is called the geometric mean of the extremes. The **geometric mean** between two numbers is the positive square root of their product.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{extreme} \rightarrow \frac{a}{x} = \frac{x}{b} \leftarrow \text{mean} \\ \text{mean} \rightarrow x \quad b \leftarrow \text{extreme} \end{array}$$

**Key Concept**

### Geometric Mean

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**Words** The geometric mean of two positive numbers  $a$  and  $b$  is the number  $x$  such that  $\frac{a}{x} = \frac{x}{b}$ . So,  $x^2 = ab$  and  $x = \sqrt{ab}$ .

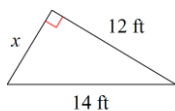
**Example** The geometric mean of  $a = 9$  and  $b = 4$  is 6, because  $6 = \sqrt{9 \cdot 4}$ .

Example #1: Find the geometric mean between 2 and 8.

Example #2: Find the geometric mean between  $\sqrt{15}$  and  $\sqrt{101}$ .

### Ex. 3Pythagorean Theorem: Review

Find  $x$ .



## GEOMETRIC MEAN IN RIGHT TRIANGLES

**Geometric Means in Right Triangles** In a right triangle, an altitude drawn from the vertex of the right angle to the hypotenuse forms two additional right triangles. These three right triangles share a special relationship.

Example 4.

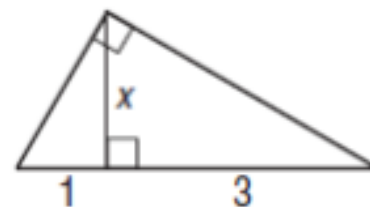
**Theorems**

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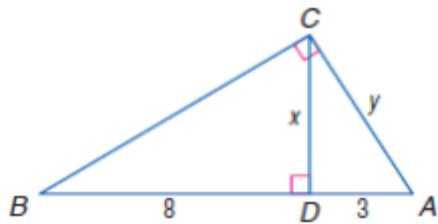
### Right Triangle Geometric Mean Theorems

**8.2 Geometric Mean (Altitude) Theorem** The altitude drawn to the hypotenuse of a right triangle separates the hypotenuse into two segments. The length of this altitude is the geometric mean between the lengths of these two segments.

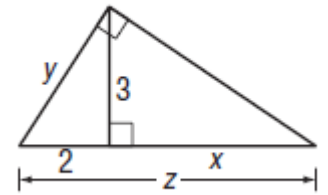
**Example** If  $\overline{CD}$  is the altitude to hypotenuse  $\overline{AB}$  of right  $\triangle ABC$ , then  $\frac{x}{h} = \frac{h}{y}$  or  $h = \sqrt{xy}$ .



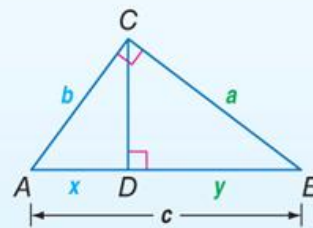
Example #5:



Example #6

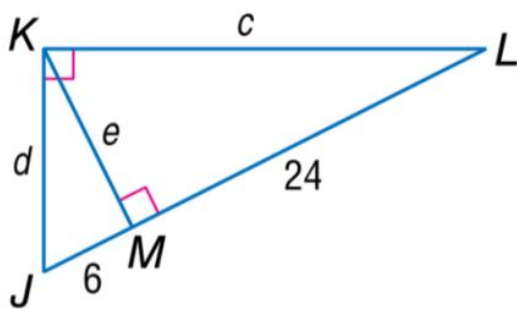


**8.3 Geometric Mean (Leg) Theorem** The altitude drawn to the hypotenuse of a right triangle separates the hypotenuse into two segments. The length of a leg of this triangle is the geometric mean between the length of the hypotenuse and the segment of the hypotenuse adjacent to that leg.



**Example** If  $\overline{CD}$  is the altitude to hypotenuse  $\overline{AB}$  of right  $\triangle ABC$ , then  $\frac{c}{b} = \frac{b}{x}$  or  $b = \sqrt{xc}$  and  $\frac{c}{a} = \frac{a}{y}$  or  $a = \sqrt{yc}$ .

Example 7.



Example 8.

