## 5-5 Similar Figures and Proportions

## Learn to use ratios to determine if two figures are similar.

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## Vocabulary

similar corresponding sides corresponding angles

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Octahedral fluorite is a crystal found in nature. It grows in the shape of an octahedron, which is a solid figure with eight triangular faces. The triangles in different-sized fluorite crystals are similar figures. Similar figures have the same shape but not necessarily the same size.

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Matching sides of two or more polygons are called corresponding sides, and matching angles are called corresponding angles.


Corresponding angles

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## SIMILAR FIGURES

If two figures are similar, then the measures of the corresponding angles are equal and the ratios of the lengths of the corresponding sides are proportional.

To find out if triangles are similar, determine whether the ratios of the lengths of their corresponding sides are proportional. If the ratios are proportional, then the corresponding angles must have equal measures.

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## Reading Math

A side of a figure can be named by its endpoints, with a bar above.

$$
\overline{A B}
$$

Without the bar, the letters indicate the length of the side.

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## Additional Example 1: Determining Whether Two Triangles Are Similar

Identify the corresponding sides in the pair of triangles. Then use ratios to determine whether the triangles are similar.
$\overline{A B}$ corresponds to $\overline{D E}$. $\overline{B C}$ corresponds to $\overline{E F}$. $\overline{A C}$ corresponds to $\overline{D F}$.


$$
\begin{array}{rll}
\frac{A B}{D E} & \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{B C}{E F} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{A C}{D F} & \text { Write ratios using the corresponding sides. } \\
\frac{4}{16} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{7}{28} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{10}{40} & \text { Substitute the length of the sides. } \\
\frac{1}{4} & \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{1}{4} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{1}{4} & \text { Simplify each ratio. }
\end{array}
$$

Since the ratios of the corresponding sides are equivalent, the triangles are similar.

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In figures with four or more sides, it is possible for the corresponding side lengths to be proportional and the figures to have different shapes. To find out if these figures are similar, first check that their corresponding angles have equal measures.


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Additional Example 2: Determining Whether Two Four-Sided Figures are Similar
Use the properties of similarity to determine whether the figures are similar.


The corresponding angles of the figures have equal measure.


Write each set of corresponding sides as a ratio.

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## Additional Example 2 Continued



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## Additional Example 2 Continued

Determine whether the ratios of the lengths of the corresponding sides are proportional.


$$
\frac{M N}{Q R} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{N O}{R S} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{O P}{S T} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{M P}{Q T}
$$

$$
\frac{6}{9} ? \frac{8}{=} \frac{?}{12} \frac{4}{6} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{10}{15}
$$

$$
\frac{2}{3} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{2}{=} \frac{2}{3} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{2}{3}
$$

Since the ratios of the corresponding sides are equivalent, the figures are similar.

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## Lesson Quiz: Part 1

1. Identify the corresponding sides in the pair of triangles, and use ratios to determine whether the triangles are similar.

NO corresponds to $\overline{Q R}$;
$\overline{P O}$ corresponds to $\overline{S R}$;

$P N$ corresponds to SQ; similar

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## Lesson Quiz

2. Use properties of similarity to determine whether the figures are similar.

