

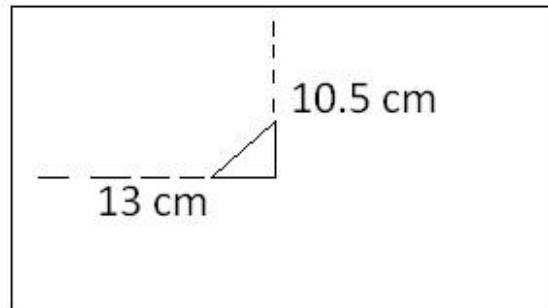
The Pythagorean Spiral Project

You will use compass constructions to create a poster of the Pythagorean spiral. The result needs to be colored and may be creatively decorated. You will need to turn in your poster and a separate piece of paper with all calculations.

Materials: 8 ½ x 11 unlined paper; ruler; compass; pencil, colored pencils or markers

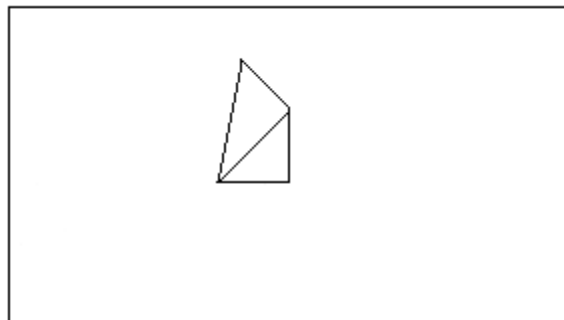
Step 1: Place the paper in landscape orientation. Measure from the top left hand corner 13 cm right and 10.5 cm down. This will be the starting point for your diagram. It will assure that your diagram stays on the page.

Step 2: Using your ruler create a segment that is 3 cm across starting from the starting point and heading towards the center of the poster. Make this segment perpendicular to the side of the poster. Use your compass and ruler (without measuring) to construct a congruent segment that is perpendicular to the original. Connect the endpoints of the two segments to create a right isosceles triangle.



Step 3: On a separate piece of paper, use the Pythagorean Theorem to calculate the length of the hypotenuse. Show all work and write your answer in reduced radical form.

Step 4: Using the hypotenuse of the first triangle, create another right triangle on top of the previous hypotenuse. The old hypotenuse will be the new base and construct a perpendicular segment to this, with a length of 3 cm. Then connect the two segments to form a new hypotenuse.



Step 5: On your separate piece of paper, show the calculations to find the length of the new hypotenuse.

Step 6: Continue to repeat this process of connecting and constructing new triangles with a side length of 3 cm, using the previous hypotenuse as the other side. Continue to show your calculations on your separate piece of paper. Construct triangles until you have formed a full spiral.

Step 7: Detail your Pythagorean Spiral with a design. Use color and a pattern to make a creative picture.

TO TURN IN: Your poster with light pencil lines shown for constructions and color used to decorate the pattern. Your work for each hypotenuse length on a separate sheet of paper.

Grading Rubric for Pythagorean Spiral Project

Number of Points	Use of Compass Constructions	Calculations for each hypotenuse	Poster Result	Creativity
4	Evidence of each compass construction shown	All work is shown using the Pythagorean Theorem and each answer is simplified	The result shows 17 right triangles that rotate around to the right and the last triangle overlaps the original	The poster is creatively colored and decorated
3	Evidence of most compass constructions shown	All work is shown using the Pythagorean Theorem but some answers are not properly simplified	The result shows an error in construction resulting in one fewer or one more triangle	The poster is colored but the results are not neat.
2	Partial or incorrect constructions shown	All work is shown but with errors in calculation and/or simplification	The result goes the wrong direction and/or is off by more than one triangle	The poster is partially colored or incomplete.
1	Construction markings are not visible	Only partial work is shown and/or no evidence of the Pythagorean Theorem	The result does not appear to have followed the proper requirements	The poster is not colored or decorated