



Current Geometry PoW

The Math Forum's PoWs provide non-routine constructed response problems. The Geometry problems target concepts typically learned in a high school geometry class. Memberships and mentoring options are available at the individual, class, school, and district levels.

Part of a Rectangle - posted March 19, 2007

In rectangle PQRS, point T is the midpoint of side QR. If the area of quadrilateral PQTS is $\frac{5}{8}$, what is the area of rectangle PQRS?

Extra: Can you come up with another way to solve the problem?

Here's a rectangle for you to use:



Learn more about the PoWs at http://mathforum.org/problems_puzzles_landing.html

The Geometry Problem of the Week Scoring Rubric

A full-page version of this file is available to the public via the Scoring Guide link at <http://mathforum.org/geopow/>. Problem-specific scoring rubrics, as well as “Expected Solution” documents, are available to Teacher Members who choose to mentor their students’ work using our online environment.

For each category, choose the level that *best describes* your work

	Novice	Apprentice	Practitioner	Expert
Problem Solving				
Interpretation	I do not understand much of the problem.	I don't understand all of the math concepts in the problem. I didn't attempt to solve all of the parts.	I understand all of the math concepts in the problem. I attempted all parts of the main problem.	I understand the Extra question and solved it correctly (and am at least a Practitioner in Strategy).
Strategy	I do not know how to set up the problem.	I picked an incorrect strategy, or relied on luck to get the right answer.	I picked a sound strategy and solved the problem with skill, not luck.	I used two separate strategies or an unusual or sophisticated strategy.
Accuracy	I think I made many errors.	Most of my work is accurate. I may have one or two errors. I didn't use correct units. I didn't leave things in exact form.	My work is accurate and contains no arithmetic mistakes. I used appropriate units. I left things in exact form when required.	[not possible for most problems]
Communication				
Completeness	I didn't write much, if anything, about how I found my answer.	I don't explain where my equations and expressions came from. I showed my work but didn't explain it. <i>or</i> I explained what I did without showing any of the actual work.	I explained almost all of the steps taken to solve the problem. I explained how I came up with my equations, expressions, and calculations.	I added some extensions and further explanation of some of the ideas involved. I proved one of the theorems that I used.
Clarity	My explanation is very difficult to read and follow.	My explanation isn't entirely unreadable, but another student wouldn't be able to follow it easily. My spelling and typing errors make my explanation hard to understand.	I explained all of the steps in such a way that another student would understand. I made an effort to check my formatting, grammar, spelling, and typing, though there might still be a few small mistakes.	My answer is very readable and it looks good! My organization makes my ideas especially clear.
Reflection	These items are reflective: I did nothing reflective.	I showed how I checked my own answer. I explained why my answer is reasonable. I suggested a hint that I would give to another solver. I did one reflective thing.	I connected the problem to another problem or experience. I explained where I'm stuck. I summarized my process. I did two reflective things.	I explained why I think the problem is easy or difficult. I <i>revised</i> and improved my work. I did three or more reflective things or I did a great job with two of them.

Teacher Support for *Part of a Rectangle*

Each Current Problem of the Week (and consequently many in the library) includes a list of topics and pointers to related resources. Those problems included in our Write Math with the Math Forum product include alignments to many state standards and textbooks. This table is adapted from the full online Teacher Support page for this problem that includes links for all of the resources. These pages are available to members at <http://mathforum.org/pow/support/>.

<p style="text-align: center;">Topics</p> area of a rectangle area of a triangle area of a trapezoid congruent triangles	<p style="text-align: center;">Math Tools</p> Area of a Rectangle Area of a Triangle Area of a Trapezoid
<p style="text-align: center;">Ask Dr. Math</p> Area: Rectangle vs. Triangle	<p style="text-align: center;">Problems Library</p> GeoPoW: The “Middle” Triangle GeoPoW: Area of a Rectangle