NAME Adv. Geo. –

9.3: Altitude Hypotenuse Theorems

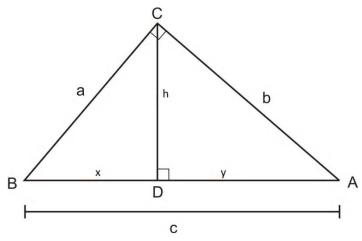
C

h

D

P

<u>Objective</u>: After studying this section, you will be able to identify the relationships between the parts of a right triangle when an altitude is drawn to the hypotenuse.



Prior Knowledge: Pythogrean Theorem, as $leg^2 + leg^2 = hypotenuse^2$ where a & b are legs and c is the hypotenuse. In our worksheet, we used similar triangles to observe that the altitude is the geometric mean of the hypotenuse parts, that is $h^2 = xy$. Some of those exercises were leading us to observe two more theorems: $a^2 = xc$ and $b^2 = yc$.

Compare this diagram to the one in our book (below) and see how the formulas are similar. Can you come up with a more generalized (verbal) formula?

Theorem 68	If an altitude is drawn to the hypotenuse of a right
	triangle, then

a The two triangles formed are similar to the given right triangle and to each other

 $\triangle ADC \sim \triangle ACB \sim \triangle CDB$

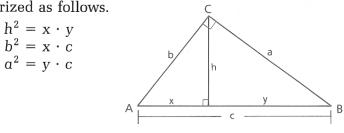
b The altitude to the hypotenuse is the mean proportional between the segments of the hypotenuse

$$\frac{x}{h} = \frac{h}{y}$$
, or $h^2 = xy$

c Either leg of the given right triangle is the mean proportional between the hypotenuse of the given right triangle and the segment of the hypotenuse adjacent to that leg (i.e., the projection of that leg on the hypotenuse)

$$\frac{y}{a} = \frac{a}{c}$$
, or $a^2 = yc$; and $\frac{x}{b} = \frac{b}{c}$, or $b^2 = xc$

Parts **b** and **c** of Theorem 68 can be summarized as follows.



AMDG

9.3: 377/ 1-8 all, 14, 16, 17, 21

