Algebra 2 Unit: Trigonometric Functions Section: Trigonometric Values in All Four Quadrants

Example: Finding Cosine and Sine in Quadrants II–IV

Problem

Find the point P cosine one hundred twenty degrees, sine one hundred twenty degrees on the unit circle.

Solution

First draw the special triangle. Notice that one hundred twenty degrees is in quadrant two. You can draw a thirty-sixty-ninety triangle from the given one hundred twenty degrees. Since we are in quadrant two the x-value is now negative.

Cosine of one hundred twenty degrees is negative one-half. Sine of one hundred twenty degrees is square root of three divided by two.