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Example: Perimeter and Area of Similar Polygons

Problem:

Polygon A is similar to polygon B. The ratio of the sides of polygon A to polygon B is 3:5. The perimeter of polygon A is 126 feet. The area of polygon B is 250 square feet. What is the perimeter of polygon B? What is the area of polygon A?

Solution:

We are told that the ratio of the sides of polygon A to the sides of polygon B equals 3 to 5.

This means that the ratio of the perimeter of polygon A to the perimeter of polygon B is also 3 to 5.

We are given that the perimeter of polygon A is 126 and we are asked to find the perimeter of polygon B. This gives us the proportion 3 divided by 5 equals 126 divided by x.

Cross multiply to get 3 times x equals 5 times 126.

3x equals 630, which means that x equals 210.

The perimeter of polygon B is 210 feet.

Since the ratio of the sides is 3 to 5, the ratio of the area of polygon A to the area of polygon B is 3 squared to 5 squared, which is 9 to 25.

Using this information and the fact that the area of polygon B is 250, we can write the proportion 9 divided by 25 equals y divided by 250. Notice that the 250 was placed on the bottom, because that is the area of polygon B.

Cross multiply to get 9 times 250 equals 25 times y.

2250 equals 25y, which means that y equals 90.

The area of polygon A is 90 square feet.