

Pythagorean Triples

Whole numbers which satisfy the Pythagorean Theorem are called Pythagorean Triples. Sample triples are 3, 4, 5, and multiples of these numbers such as 9, 12, and 15.

Using Google Earth, find at least 3 separate instances of cities, monuments, or objects which form right triangles. (Please round each of the distances between your vertices to the nearest whole number.)

Example: The Research Triangle in North Carolina is formed by Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill. Is this triangle a right triangle? Explain.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{No; } 26^2 &\neq 12^2 + 21^2 \\ 676 &\neq 144 + 441 \\ 676 &\neq 585 \end{aligned}$$

Now it is your turn! You will need to find **at least** 3 instances on the map which look as if they form right angles. Record the 3 coordinates of each potential right triangle, then determine which of your instances really do form right triangles.

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|-------------|----|
| Coordinates | A) |
| | B) |
| | C) |

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