

Section 7.4 - Similarity in Right Triangles Goal: Calculate the geometric mean and simplify square roots

<u>Geometric Mean</u>

The geometric mean of two positive numbers a and b is

the positive number x that satisfies $\frac{a}{b}$



Simplifying Radicals

If doing a square root results in an irrational number, there are 2 ways to write the number - as a rounded decimal or as a simplified radical.

To simplify a radical, you need to remember which numbers are perfect square numbers.



Writing in Simplified Radical Form

- 1) Find a perfect square that divides into the radicand.
 - look for the largest perfect square that divides in
- 2) Split the radicand into two factors.
- 3) Simplify the perfect square factor and move the result outside the radical symbol.

$$\sqrt{12} = \sqrt{4 \cdot 3} = 2\sqrt{3}$$

 $\sqrt{18} = \sqrt{9 \cdot 2} = 3\sqrt{2}$
 $\sqrt{72} = \sqrt{36 \cdot 2} = 6\sqrt{2}$

$$\sqrt{400} = 20$$
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Find the geometric mean for the pair of numbers given.

2 and 22 8 and 10



