Page 1: [1] Comment [2]

Frank Cox

7/25/13 2:32 PM

For this hands-on activity you will need to have computers available to your class so you will either need use a classroom set or take your class to a computer lab. If you don't have access to these resources, another option is you would most likely want to run a demonstration on one computer and project it for the class having students come up and be the ones manipulating the triangles.

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Frank Cox

7/25/13 2:45 PM

I have found that students can either be very excited or terribly afraid of more open-ended, technology-based activities such as this. To overcome this fear, when you pair up students consider putting a more technologically savvy and adventurous student with a more reticent one. This can make or break this type of classroom work until your students get comfortable with exploration.

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Frank Cox

7/25/13 2:46 PM

Along the same lines, this applet can overwhelm students. One part that some may feel afraid to even try is in explaining the theorem that is provided. It will be very important that you are circulating about the classroom as they work through this activity to guide, direct, and probe their work.

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Frank Cox

7/25/13 2:39 PM

This lesson will probably work best if you allow students to pair up so they can help each other solve any confusions or misunderstandings that may arise either with how to use the software or answer the mathematical questions. Also, this will make it so that you will only need $\frac{1}{2}$ as many computers.

Page 1: [5] Comment [6]

Frank Cox

7/25/13 2:44 PM

The time you spend on each section of the lesson largely depends on how the students are progressing through the lesson. Keep an eye on the teams and if one seems to be getting too far ahead of behind pull the class together to bring them back to a similar place.

Page 1: [6] Comment [8]

Frank Cox

7/25/13 2:46 PM

Another challenge that you should be aware of is as is the case with most activities that students can get lost in the busyness of the work and lose track of what they are to learn in terms of concepts. Draw out of and consistently point the students back to what is it about similarity and proportional relationships they should be learning about right triangles – corresponding sides of the right triangles are proportional and can be used to develop the Pythagorean Theorem.