

Lesson 32: Construct a Nine-Point Circle

Classwork

Opening Exercise

During this unit we have learned many constructions. Now that you have mastered these constructions write a list of advice for someone who is about to learn the constructions you have learned for the first time. What did and did not help you? What tips did you wish you had at the beginning that would have made it easier along the way?

Exploratory Challenge 1

Yesterday, we began the nine-point circle construction. What did we learn about the triangle that we start our construction with? Where did we stop in the construction?

We will continue our construction today.

There are two constructions for finding the center of the nine-point circle. With a partner, work through both constructions.

Construction 1

1. To find the center of the circle, draw inscribed $\triangle LMN$.
2. Find the circumcenter of $\triangle LMN$, and label it as U .

Recall that the circumcenter of a triangle is the center of the circle that circumscribes the triangle, which in this case, is the nine-point circle.

Construction 2

1. Construct the circle that circumscribes $\triangle ABC$.
2. Find the circumcenter of $\triangle ABC$, which is the center of the circle that circumscribes $\triangle ABC$. Label its center CC .
3. Draw the segment that joins point H (the orthocenter from the construction of the nine-point circle in Lesson 31) to the point CC .
4. Find the midpoint of the segment you drew in Step 3, and label that point U .

Describe the relationship between the midpoint you found in Step 4 of the second construction and the point U in the first construction.

Exploratory Challenge 2

Construct a square $ABCD$. Pick a point E between B and C , and draw a segment from point A to a point E . The segment forms a right triangle and a trapezoid out of the square. Construct a nine-point circle using the right triangle.

Problem Set

Take a blank sheet of $8\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 11 inch white paper and draw a triangle with vertices on the edge of the paper. Construct a nine-point circle within this triangle. Then draw a triangle with vertices on that nine-point circle, and construct a nine-point circle within that. Continue constructing nine-point circles until you no longer have room inside your constructions.