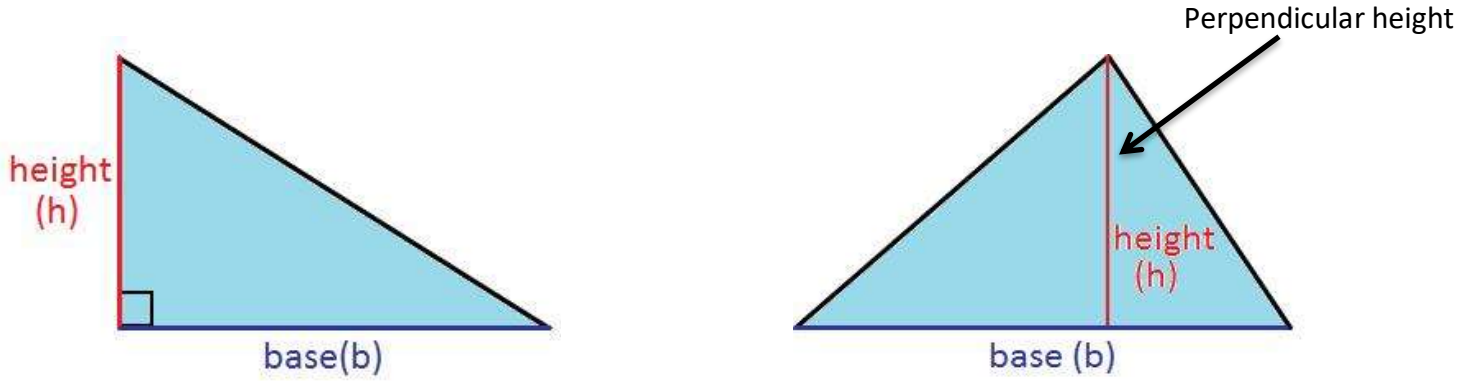
Name Date

AREA OF A TRIANGLE

The area of a triangle is equal to half of the base multiplied by the perpendicular height of the triangle.



Area of a triangle = ½ x b x h or ½bh.

In a right triangle (left) then we simply need to multiply the 2 sides together which are adjacent to the right angle, and then halve the answer.

In a triangle which is not a right triangle (right), then we need to find the perpendicular height of the triangle by dropping a vertical line down from the highest point on the triangle to the base (which needs to be horizontal). We can then find the area by multiplying the base by this perpendicular height and halving the answer.

Why does this work?

If we look at the rectangle below, we can see that it has twice the area of the blue triangle inside it because the two yellow triangles are exactly the same size as the two sub-divided blue triangles.

The area of this rectangle is base x height, so the area of the triangle is half of this which is ½ x base x height.

