



Activity 14.13 AREA OF A TRIANGLE



Provide students with at least two triangles drawn on grid paper. Avoid right triangles because they are an easier special case. Challenge the students to use what they have learned about the area of parallelograms to find the area of each of the triangles and to develop a method that will work for any triangle. They should be sure that their method works for all the triangles given to them, as well as at least one more that they draw. For students with disabilities or those that need more structure, ask, "Can you find a parallelogram that is related to your triangle?" Then suggest that they fold a piece of paper in half, draw a triangle on the folded paper, and cut it out, making two identical copies. Use the copies to fit the triangles together into a parallelogram. This provides a nice visual of how a triangle is related to a parallelogram.

From Van de Walle et. al. (2014). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades: Developmentally Appropriate Instruction for Grades 6 – 8 (2nd Ed.)*. Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 314).