

Geometry Lab Constructing Angles and Lines



A compass is a drawing instrument used for drawing circles and arcs. A straightedge, such as a ruler, is used to draw segments. You can use a compass and a straightedge to construct basic elements of geometric figures.

You know a line segment is part of a line with two endpoints. Line segments that have the same length are called **congruent segments**.

Activity 1 Construct Congruent Segments

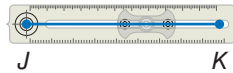
Step 1

Draw \overline{JK} . Then use a straightedge to draw a line segment longer than \overline{JK} . Label it \overline{LM} .



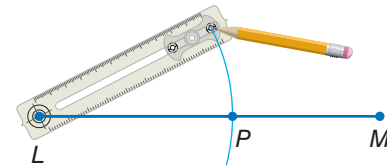
Step 2

Place the compass at J and adjust the compass setting so you can place the pencil tip on K . The compass setting equals the length of \overline{JK} .



Step 3

Using this setting, place the compass tip at L . Draw an arc to intersect \overline{LM} . Label the intersection P . \overline{LP} is congruent to \overline{JK} .

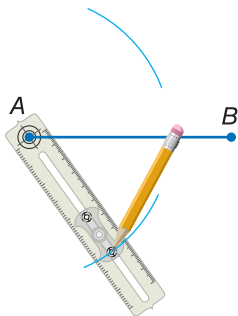


A **perpendicular bisector** is a perpendicular line that divides a line segment into two congruent segments.

Activity 2 Construct Perpendicular Bisectors

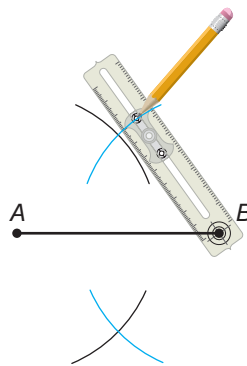
Step 1

Draw \overline{AB} . Then place the compass at point A . Using a setting greater than one half the length of \overline{AB} , draw an arc above and below \overline{AB} .



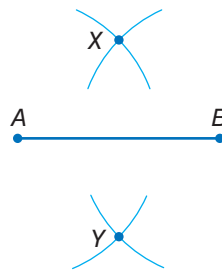
Step 2

Using this setting, place the compass at point B . Draw another set of arcs above and below \overline{AB} as shown.



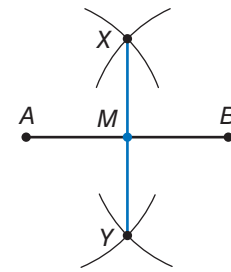
Step 3

Label the intersection of these arcs X and Y as shown.



Step 4

Draw \overline{XY} . Label the intersection of \overline{AB} and this new line M .



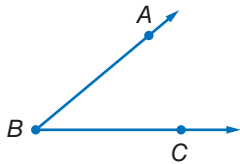
\overline{XY} is the perpendicular bisector of \overline{AB} . Segments AM and MB are congruent.

Two angles that have the same measure are **congruent angles**. You can use a protractor to construct congruent angles.

Activity 3 Construct Congruent Angles

Step 1

Draw $\angle ABC$.



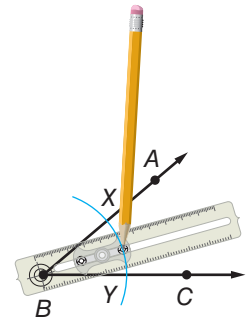
Step 2

Use a straightedge to draw \overrightarrow{LK} .



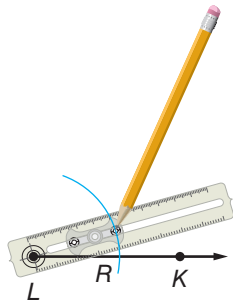
Step 3

With the compass at point B, draw an arc that intersects both sides of $\angle ABC$. Label the two points of intersection as X and Y.



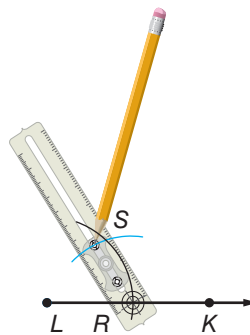
Step 4

With the same setting on your compass, place your compass at point L. Draw an arc. Label the intersection R.



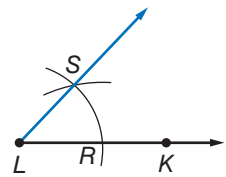
Step 5

Open your compass to the same width as the distance between points X and Y. Then place the compass at point R. Draw an arc that intersects the arc you drew in Step 4. Label this point of intersection S.



Step 6

Use a straightedge to draw a ray from L through point S.



Angle MLK is congruent to $\angle ABC$.

Geometry Lab

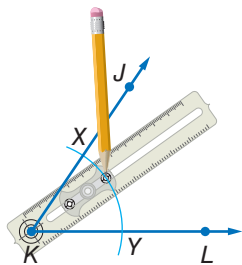
Constructing Angles and Lines *Continued*

An **angle bisector** is a ray that divides an angle into two congruent angles.

Activity 4 Construct an Angle Bisector

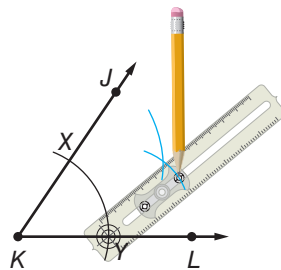
Step 1

Draw $\angle JKL$. Place the compass at point K and draw an arc that intersects both sides of the angle. Label the intersections X and Y .



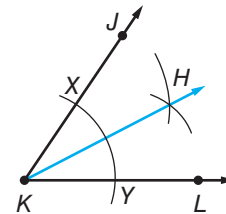
Step 2

With the compass at point X , draw an arc in the interior of $\angle JKL$. Using this setting, place the compass at point Y . Draw another arc.



Step 3

Label the intersection of these arcs H . Then draw \overrightarrow{KH} .



\overrightarrow{KH} is the bisector of $\angle JKL$. Angles $\angle JKH$ and $\angle HKL$ are congruent.

Recall that two lines in a plane that never intersect are parallel lines. You can use angle constructions to construct a line parallel to a given line.

Activity 5 Construct Parallel Lines

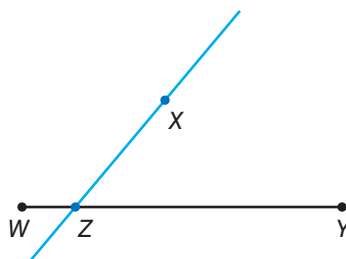
Step 1

Draw \overline{WY} . Draw point X above the line.



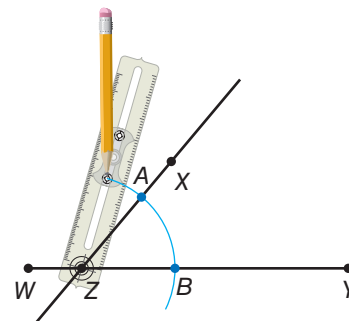
Step 2

Use a straightedge to draw a line through point X to intersect \overline{WY} at an acute angle. Label this intersection point Z .



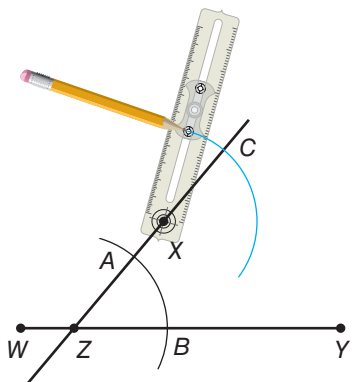
Step 3

Place the compass at point Z . Using a setting about one half the length of \overline{XZ} , draw an arc to intersect both sides of the angle. Label the intersections A and B .



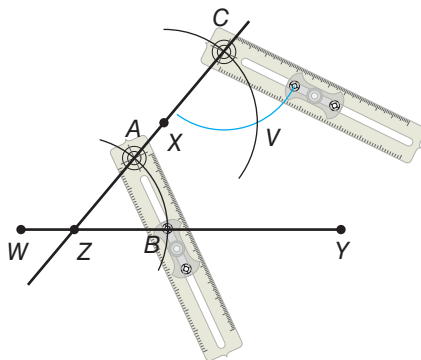
Step 4

Using the same setting, place the compass on point X . Draw an arc about the same size. Label the intersection as C .



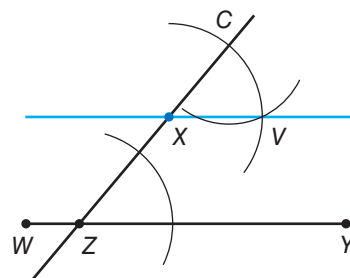
Step 5

Open your compass to measure the distance from A to B . Using that same setting, place the compass on C . Draw another arc that intersects the arc drawn in Step 4. Label this intersection point V .



Step 6

Use a straight edge to connect points X and V . Line XV is parallel to \overline{WY} .



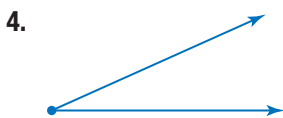
Segment WY is parallel to line XV .

Exercises

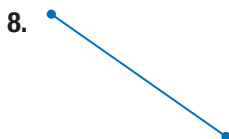
Trace each segment. Then construct the segment's perpendicular bisector and a segment congruent to it.



Trace each angle. Then construct the angle's bisector and an angle congruent to it.



Trace each segment. Then construct a line parallel to it.



Identify each of the following in the figure at the right.

10. perpendicular bisector of \overline{CG}

11. angle bisector of $\angle AIG$

12. segment congruent to \overline{IC}

13. angle congruent to $\angle EID$

