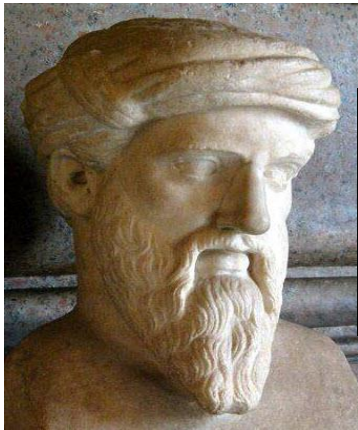




Jon Molomby



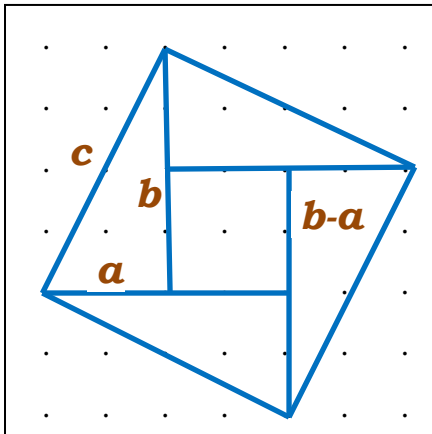
Pythagoras' Theorem:

Italiano: Busto di Pitagora. Copia romana di originale greco. Musei Capitolini, Roma. Brüste des Philosophen Pythagoras von Samos in den Kapitulinischen Museen, de:Palazzo Nuovo; de:Rom Fotograf oder Zeichner: Galilea
Copyright Status: de:GNU Freie Dokumentationslizenz

Algebraic Proofs

INSTRUCTION : Do these on the worksheet, but using a 7 x 7 nail geoboard as well will make them easier to understand

Algebraic Proof #1



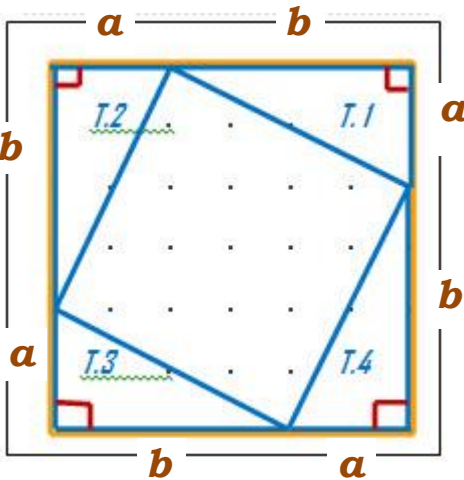
Make a right triangle, then 3 identical right triangles, each at 90° to its adjacent

Let's call the shortest side **a**. The area of the large square formed will be **c²**

Now equate **c²** to the sum of the **5** areas (1 square plus 4 triangles)

$$c^2 =$$

Algebraic Proof #2



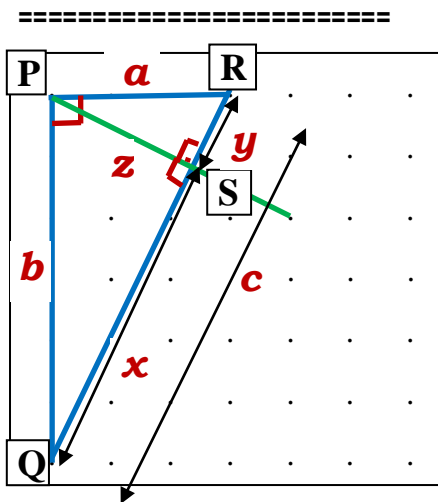
Make a right triangle, then rotate it about the centre nail (order 4)

A large square is formed. Let the shortest side be **a**.

Equate the total area of the square **(a + b)²** to the sum of **5** areas within it (4 triangles and 1 square)

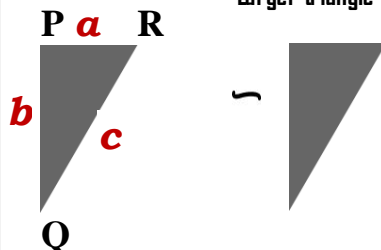
$$(a + b)^2 =$$

Algebraic Proof #3 (using similar triangles)



▲PQR ~ ▲ () ()

Larger triangle



Label the similar triangles above with points (large letters) and sides (small letters)

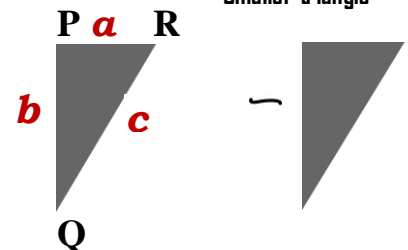
Then make a ratio : $\frac{b}{c} =$

Cross Multiply :

Add the two equations:

▲PQR ~ ▲ () ()

Smaller triangle



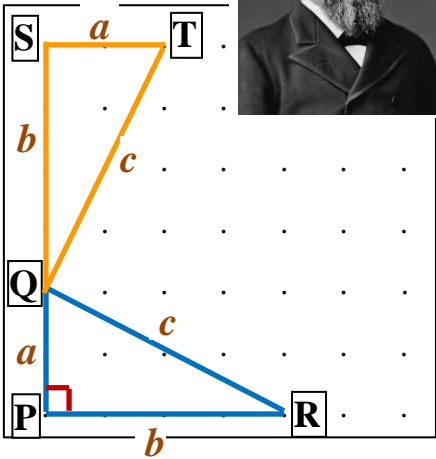
Then make a ratio : $\frac{a}{c} =$

Cross Multiply :

James A. Garfield (1831 - 1881), 20th president of USA (1881), loved Mathematics, and is credited with this proof. Brady-Handy photograph of Garfield, via Wiki



Garfield's Algebraic Proof #4

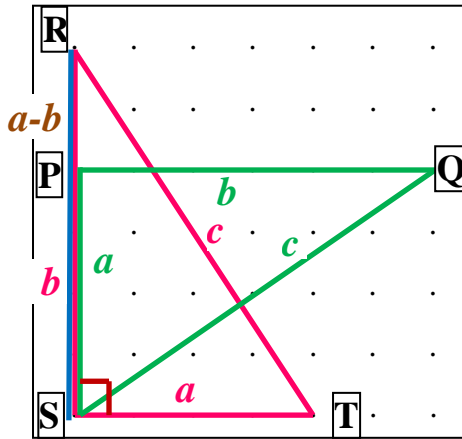


▲QST is constructed by a 90° clockwise slide rotation about P of ▲RPQ

What is the measure of angle TQR? *Ans*: degrees. Draw TR.

Equate the area of the trapezium/trapezoid to the area sum of the 3 triangles.

Algebraic Proof #5

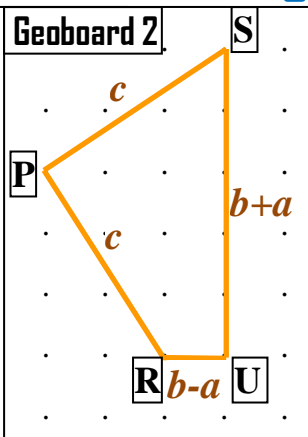
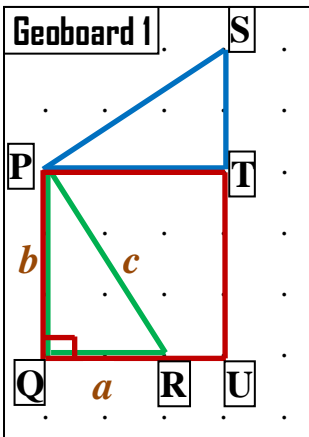


Right ▲SRT is slide rotated 90° clockwise about S to become ▲PQS

Draw RQ and QT

Equate the area of Quadrilateral SRQT to ▲SQT plus ▲RQS.

Algebraic Proof #6



Geoboard 1 : Make a right triangle and form b^2 as shown

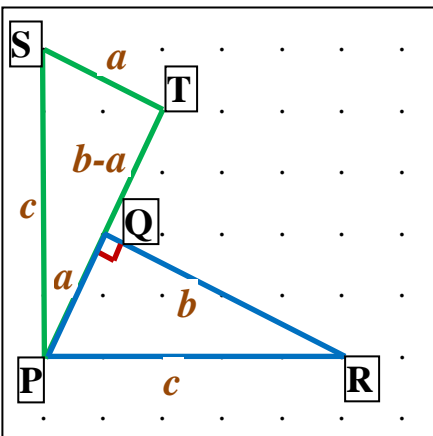
Rotate ▲PQR 90° anti-clockwise about P to be ▲PTS

Geoboard 2 : Remove ▲PQR, now the enclosed area is still b^2

Draw SR. Equate b^2 to the sum of ▲RPS and ▲RSU

$$b^2 =$$

Algebraic Proof #7



▲STP is constructed by a 90° clockwise slide rotation about P of ▲PQR

Draw TR and SR. Express these areas as different triangles and equate them

$$\triangle PQR + \triangle STP + \triangle TQR = \triangle SRP + \triangle SRT$$