

**Purpose:** In this problem set, you will connect two trigonometric functions, sine and cosine, to points on circles.

A point on a circle is determined by the angle  $\theta$  (measured from the positive  $x$ -axis) and the radius of the circle.

To better understand the point on the circle, we will use something called a *reference triangle*. Note: We ALWAYS use the  $x$ -axis (positive or negative) for a reference triangle, never the  $y$ -axis.

As the radius changes, the ratio of the the side lengths of the triangles will stay the same so we give the functions that record these ratios special names.

- The sine function is  $\sin(\theta) =$
  
- The cosine function is  $\cos(\theta) =$

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1. Draw two circles with different radii.

(a) When  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ , how big is  $y$  (the height of the reference triangle) relative to  $r$  (the hypotenuse of the reference triangle)?

(b) How do your circles and ratios compare to your neighbor's?

(c) What is  $\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$ ?

(d) What is  $\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$ ?

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2. Draw the unit circle below. For each of the following angles, sketch the corresponding ray and write the angle in degrees. Then find  $\sin(\theta)$  and  $\cos(\theta)$ .

(a)  $\theta = \pi$

$$\sin(\pi) =$$

$$\cos(\pi) =$$

(b)  $\theta = \frac{3\pi}{2}$

$$\sin\left(\frac{3\pi}{2}\right) =$$

$$\cos\left(\frac{3\pi}{2}\right) =$$

(c)  $\theta = 0$

$$\sin(0) =$$

$$\cos(0) =$$

(d)  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$

$$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) =$$

$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) =$$

(e)  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}$

$$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) =$$

$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) =$$

(f)  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$

$$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) =$$

$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) =$$

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# The Unit Circle

