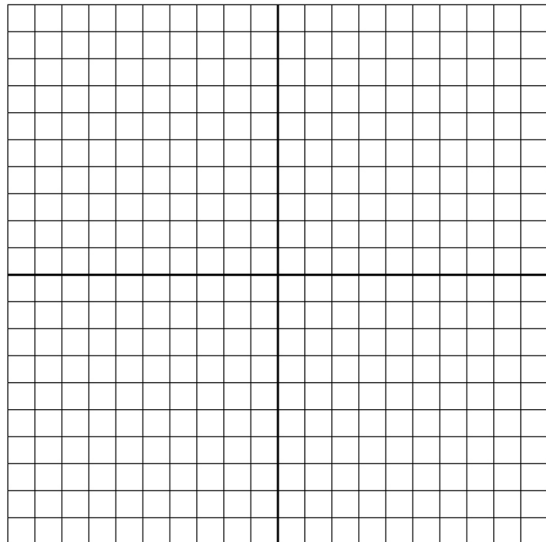


Determine the line equation of an altitude



$\triangle GHK$ is defined by points $G(-4,3)$, $H(1,-2)$, and $K(-7,-3)$. Find the equation of altitude \overline{LH} .

1. Plot the points of the triangle.

2. Find the slope of \overline{GK} .

$G(-4,3)$ and $K(-7,-3)$

$$\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$\frac{-3 - 3}{-7 - -4} = \frac{-6}{-3} = 2$$

3. Find the slope perpendicular to the slope of \overline{GK} .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{slope of } \overline{GK} & \xrightarrow{\text{negative reciprocal}} & \text{slope of } \overline{LH} \\ 2 & & -\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$$

4. Use the slope of \overline{LH} and point $H(1,-2)$ in point-slope form.

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y + 2 = -\frac{1}{2}(x - 1)$$

5. Convert to slope-intercept form.

$$y + 2 = -\frac{1}{2}(x - 1)$$

$$y + 2 = -\frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$-2 \quad -2$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2}x - 1\frac{1}{2}$$