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Geometry Exploration Lab

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Topic: 3.6 Corresponding Parts of Congruent Triangles are Congruent

1. Refresher: What does congruent mean? What does it mean if two things are congruent?
2. What are corresponding angles? Draw two parallel lines and a transverse line, and label the corresponding angles.
3. Draw two triangles $\triangle ABC$ and $\triangle XYZ$.
 - Note that $\triangle ABC \cong \triangle XYZ$. What angles in each triangle do you think correspond to one another? What sides correspond?
 - If $\angle ABC = 90^\circ$ and $\angle ACB = 43^\circ$, find $\angle XYZ$ and $\angle XZY$. What do you notice?
 - Find $\angle YXZ$ and $\angle BAC$. What do you notice about these angles? Are there any similarities?
 - If $\overline{AB} = 3$ and $\overline{BC} = 4$, find \overline{XY} and \overline{YZ} . What do you notice?
 - Using the Pythagorean Theorem, find sides \overline{AC} and \overline{XZ} . Are there any similarities?
 - What pattern do you notice between these two triangles? Are they the same for all congruent triangles?
4. Using what you have learned, write a general theory about congruent triangles and their sides and angles.