

Suggestions for Use

(Based on user feedback... By the way, we would appreciate YOUR feedback too!)

Each chapter of *Geometry: A Guided Inquiry* is divided into a Central section and a Project section. For each of these, the *Home Study Companion: Geometry* CD has:

- a collection of demonstrations using *The Geometer's Sketchpad*[®].
- a pdf file with complete, worked-out solutions to every problem. (This file contains additional commentary besides just the problem solutions.)

Based on comments from users, we recommend that you:

1. Set a goal for how many weeks to spend on each chapter. A standard-length school year is about 180 school days, and there are 12 chapters. That divides out to 15 school days (three weeks) per chapter. However, there are extension sections on the CD that have been added to Chapters 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 11. Allowing an average of 5 days for each extension section takes up 30 school days, leaving 150 school days to divide by 12. That comes out to 12.5 days (2.5 weeks) per normal chapter and 17.5 days (3.5 weeks) for the chapters with extensions. This is just a rough guideline. Some chapters will undoubtedly seem harder than others. Adjust the pace according to your own time constraints and the perceived difficulty of the material. Work at a comfortable but persistent pace.
2. The *Geometer's Sketchpad* demonstrations can be viewed at any time. Some of them can be understood on their own and can help motivate the material in the chapter. Others will make more sense after a certain point in the chapter. So view them at the beginning and again as you progress through the chapter.
3. Print out the pdf solution guide for the current chapter. This turns out to be an important point. If they are printed out, they will be more immediately accessible and you are more likely to refer to them regularly. (However, some of the pdf files contain Internet Hyperlinks that you may want to visit, so you may sometimes want to access them directly on your computer.)
4. Work through the Central section of the text as quickly as you are able, referring to the solution guide as necessary if you get stuck.
5. When you finish the Central section, go back and read through the entire pdf solution guide, both to check your work, and to digest the additional commentary that is included. This will serve as a good review before going further.
6. Do the various review, self test, and algebra review items. (Answers in the text.)
7. Take the remainder of the allotted time working through selected problems from the Project section. (The Project section contains the most interesting material in the book, so don't short-change it!) The method here is the same as for the Central section: view the demonstrations at any time, print out the pdf solution guide, work through as many problems as you can, and at the end, read through the entire pdf solution guide. It is best to try each project problem on your own first, but reading through the solutions of all the project problems at the end will still be of some benefit.

Don't overlook the Lab activities (listed after Chapter 12 on the CD). These will help you learn to utilize *The Geometer's Sketchpad* as a tool for your own use.