# AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES <br> SCHOOLS ENRICHMENT CENTRE (AIMSSEC) 

AIMING HIGH

## FOLD A SQUARE



A square of paper 8 cm by 8 cm is folded so that the corner $P$ coincides with the midpoint of an opposite edge as shown in the diagram.

Investigate the three triangles (where there is a single thickness of the paper) that are formed by folding in this way.

## HELP



These two folds in any rectangular sheet of paper give an angle of $60^{\circ}$. Why?

If you find it difficult to solve to find the lengths and angles in the problem above then try this question first. It is a similar context involving a similar fold but with more accessible results. It can also lead to some practical mathematics, making an equilateral triangle just by paper folding.
https://aiminghigh.aimssec.ac.za/years-9-10-making-sixty/

## NEXT

If the square of paper is folded so that the corner P does not coincide with the midpoint of an opposite edge, where would you place the fold for a
$5,12,13$
or an $8,15,17$
or a $7,24,25$ triangle?
Are any of these findings extendable to other quadrilaterals?

