

1. **Use the Pythagorean Theorem to find s , the slant height of the pyramid.**

In order to find the slant height, we need to use the Pythagorean Theorem:

$$\begin{aligned}(\text{leg 1})^2 + (\text{leg 2})^2 &= (\text{hypotenuse})^2 \\ \Rightarrow a^2 + h^2 &= s^2 \\ \Rightarrow (377.88)^2 + (481.40)^2 &= s^2 \\ \Rightarrow 374,539.25 &\approx s^2 \\ \Rightarrow 612.00 &\approx s\end{aligned}$$

2. Find the ratio of the slant height s to half the length of the base, a .

The ratio of the slant height to half the base is

$$\frac{s}{a} = \frac{612.00}{377.88} \approx 1.61956.$$

3. Is the ratio $\frac{s}{a}$ within our acceptance range for the Golden Ratio?

Since our acceptance range is:

$$1.5533 \leq \text{ratio} \leq 1.6828,$$

$\frac{s}{a} \approx 1.61956$ is well within this range.

In fact, $\frac{s}{a}$ is quite close to the Golden Ratio – much closer than we really have any right to expect it to be, given all the provisos we made earlier. Which leads us to the question...

4. How Close is this to the Golden Ratio?

$\frac{s}{a}$ is well within the 4% margin of error we used for the ratio.

What percent **is** it off by?

To calculate what percent of φ the ratio $\frac{s}{a}$ is, use the same technique you use to calculate what percentage you get on a quiz worth 80 points: divide the *measured* ratio by the *target* ratio.

$$\frac{s/a}{\varphi} = \frac{1.61956}{1.61803} = 1.000946 \Rightarrow \frac{s}{a} = 100.095\%(\varphi).$$

In other words, the ratio of the slant height to half the side is within .1% of the Golden Ratio.

Considering that this is an ancient archeological site, this is *incredibly* close.

So it *seems* the Golden Ratio may well show up in the Great Pyramid.

5. Find the ratio of the actual height of the pyramid, h , to half the length of the base, a .

$$\frac{h}{a} = \frac{481.4}{377.88} \approx 1.27395.$$

6. Find $\sqrt{\varphi}$.

$$\sqrt{\varphi} = \sqrt{\frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}} \approx 1.27202.$$

7. How far off is h/a from $\sqrt{\varphi}$?

$$\frac{h/a}{\sqrt{\varphi}} \approx \frac{1.27395}{1.27202} = 1.001517 \Rightarrow \frac{h}{a} = 100.15\%(\sqrt{\varphi}).$$

Thus the ratio of the height of the pyramid to half the length of the base is within .2% of the square root of the Golden Ratio – still well within most any acceptance ratio.

So now we have two instances that seem to show the Golden Ratio is in the Great Pyramid.