Math Grades 9 – 12
History of Mathematics
Geometric Proportions

MA.912.A.5.4

A Short Account of the History of Mathematics
"Isaac Barrow"
W. W. Rouse Ball

Reading Level: 12

Activity:

In the reading, it is stated that*, "Barrow remarked that if the abscissa and ordinate at a point Q adjacent to P were drawn, he got a small triangle PQR (which he called the differential triangle, because its sides PR and PQ were the differences of the abscissae and ordinates of P and Q), so that TM : MP = QR : RP."* Use this information to find the length of RP if given the following: TM = 12in., MP = 10in., QR=3in.