Scale Factor

NAME____

Scale factor is a way of describing the comparison between two similar figures.

For example saying that the scale factor applied to a figure is 2, is the same as saying that the scale is 2 to 1, 2 = 1, or 2:1. The table below illustrates this idea...

Scale Factor	Other Ways to Illustrate the Scale Factor		
2	2 to 1	2 = 1	2:1
3	3 to 1	3 = 1	3:1
1/2	1 to 2	1 = 2	1:2

Apply this idea to the following questions and use the information to write a proportion and answer the question.

1. Before the basketball team starts practicing, the coach wants to prepare players by helping them understand the court they will be playing on. The coach has created a scaled picture of a court for the players. The image to the right is scaled by a factor of 8. Based upon the image, what would be the actual length and width of a basketball court, in feet?



$$6\frac{1}{4}$$
ft

Length = ______ Width = _____

2. A scale factor of 4 was applied to the figure below. What would be the new height and width of the **BOLDED** rectangle?



3. Mr. Twain asked the students in his class to draw the figure below using a scale factor of 3. Then, he asked students to tell him one of the new side lengths of the figure. Some student responses are below...



Student	Response	
Mark	5 in.	
Samantha	6 in.	
Divia	1.3 in.	
Cheng	0.9 in.	
Candice	11.7 in.	

Which students answered Mr. Twain correctly?

4. Figure B is a scale image of figure A as shown. What scale factor was applied to figure A to produce figure B?



What strategy did you use to figure this out?