

# WILD DUBLIN

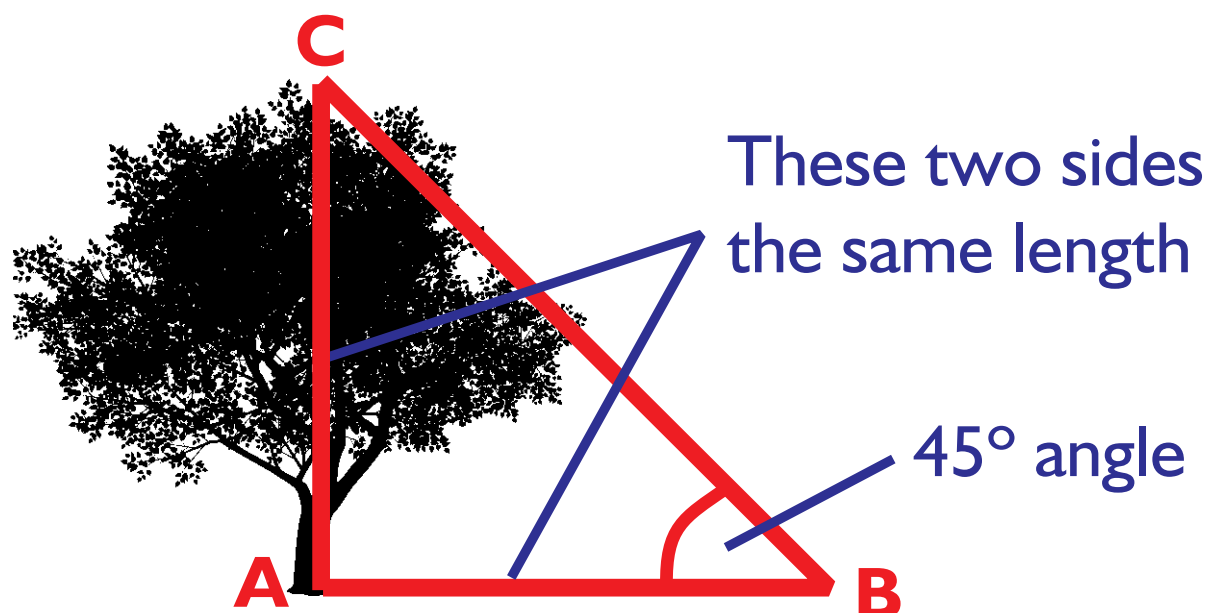
## *Exploring Nature in the City*

### How big is a tree?

Read pp 78-79

How big is a tree? Sometimes when we look at a tree they can seem enormous. The problem is how to measure their height and girth (*Circumference of the tree trunk at 1m above the ground*) accurately and safely.

To measure the girth is quite simple. All you need is a tape measure. You must take the measurement at 1m above the ground because most trees spread out just before they reach the ground.



To measure the height you need to remember that an isosceles triangle with a right angle will have two sides the same length. We are going to use this information to measure the height of the tree.

- You will need a tape measure, a table and something to measure an angle of  $45^{\circ}$ .
- Because the triangle is isosceles, then the lines **AB** and **AC** are equal
- Use the table to steady your  $45^{\circ}$  angle measure.
- Position your table so that when you look along your  $45^{\circ}$  angle measure, you can see the top of the tree.
- Now use the tape measure to measure how far you are from the base of the tree.
- This is the distance also from the top of the table to the top of the tree.
- Don't forget to add in the height of the table to calculate the height of the tree!