MATHEMATICS · KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Recognizing two-dimensional shapes

Difficulty level: Easy

Mathematics: Kindergarten to Grade 3

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Overview of the concept

This is how you name the flat shapes you see every day, like a stop sign's octagon, a slice of pizza's triangle, or a clock's circle. A stop sign has eight sides, a pizza slice has three, and a clock face is round, and each shape is easy to spot once you know what to look for. A window is a rectangle, a yield sign is a triangle, and a coin is a circle, so shapes are all around you in signs, food, and buildings. Naming them is the first step to describing what you see.



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Rule

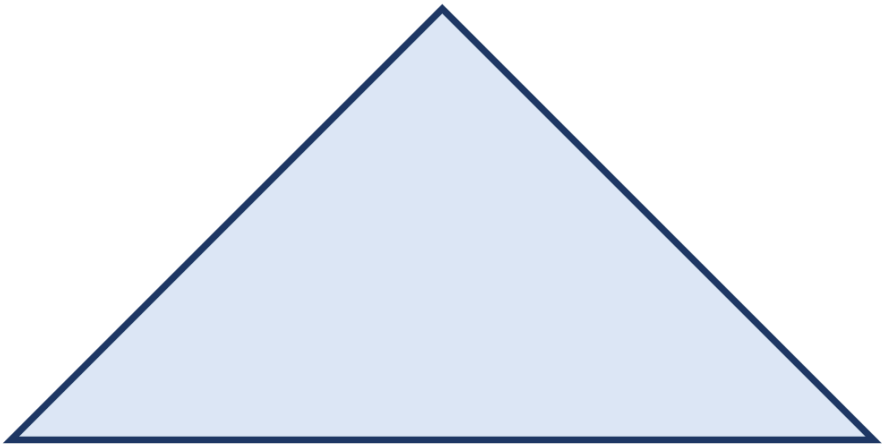
Two-dimensional shapes: name a flat shape by counting its straight sides and corners. Three sides and three corners is a triangle. Four equal sides and four corners is a square.

A rectangle has four sides with opposite sides equal. Eight sides is an octagon. A circle has no straight sides and no corners. Count the sides first, then the corners.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Name this shape: 3 sides, 3 corners



SOLUTION

triangle

Count the straight sides: 3 sides.

Count the corners: 3 corners.

Count the sides: three. Count the corners: three. That shape is a triangle.

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EXAMPLE 2

Q Name this shape: 4 equal sides, 4 corners



SOLUTION

square

Count the straight sides: 4 sides, all the same length.

Count the corners: 4 corners.

Count the sides: four, all the same length. Count the corners: four. That shape is a square.

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Practice questions

1 A tile on a floor has 8 sides and 8 corners. What shape is it?

- **A** octagon
- **B** hexagon
- **C** pentagon
- **D** decagon

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2 A shape has 4 sides. Only one pair of its sides is parallel. What shape is it?

- **A** trapezoid
- **B** parallelogram
- **C** rectangle
- **D** rhombus

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3 A coin is perfectly round with no sides and no corners. What shape is it?

- A circle
- B square
- C triangle
- D oval

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4 A door has 4 sides and it is longer than it is wide. What shape is it?

- A rectangle
- B square
- C triangle
- D trapezoid

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5 How many sides does a yield sign have? Count the straight sides.

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6 A shape has 4 equal sides and 4 corners. What shape is it?

A square

B rectangle

C triangle

D pentagon

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7 How many corners does a book cover have? Count the corners.

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8 **How many corners does an octagon have?**

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9 **Which shape has 5 corners?**

A pentagon

B hexagon

C octagon

D square

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10

How many straight sides does a clock face have?

A 0

B 1

C 2

D 4

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ANSWER KEY

1. octagon

2. trapezoid

3. circle

4. rectangle

5. 3

6. square

7. 4

8. 8

9. pentagon

10. 0

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