

Sorting Shapes by Their Sides

Unit · Counting sides and describing the lines that make a shape

ELABORATION FOCUS

Recognising, comparing and classifying shapes by the number of sides, and describing them using words such as opposite, parallel, curved and straight.

LEARNING INTENTION I can sort shapes and describe the lines that make them.

Sides

Corners

Straight

Curved

Parallel

1

Count the Sides

Step 1: trace around the shape with a finger. Step 2: count each side as you pass it.

2

Look at the Lines

Step 3: is each side straight or curved? Step 4: a circle has one curved line.

3

Find Parallel Sides

Step 5: opposite sides face each other. Step 6: if they never meet, they are parallel.

MODEL · SORTING BY NUMBER OF SIDES

Three sides make a triangle, four make a quadrilateral, and a circle has no straight sides.



triangle · 3 sides



square · 4 sides



pentagon · 5 sides



circle · 0 sides

Count the sides first, then say if they are straight or curved.

TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE

I do → We do → You do

WATCH FOR

Naming a shape only when it sits the usual way up, or only by its size.

REMEMBER

Say it to students as: "How many sides, and are they straight or curved?"

MATERIALS

Shape tiles, geoboards, straws, pattern blocks, sorting hoops, everyday objects.

Teacher note: turn shapes on their side or upside down as you go. Students who only ever see a triangle sitting flat often decide a tilted one is not a triangle at all.