

Sorting a Collection of Shapes

Elaboration 1 · Sorting the same shapes in more than one way

ELABORATION FOCUS

Sorting a collection of shapes in different ways based on their features, such as the number of sides, whether all sides are equal, and whether pairs of opposite sides are parallel.

LEARNING INTENTION I can sort a set of shapes using a rule I choose.

Sort

Rule

Equal

Sides

Parallel

1

Choose a Rule

Step 1: pick one feature, such as 3 sides. Step 2: say the rule out loud.

2

Make Two Groups

Step 3: shapes that follow the rule go in one hoop. Step 4: the rest go in the other.

3

Sort It Again

Step 5: keep the same shapes. Step 6: choose a new rule and sort again.

MODEL · ONE COLLECTION, THREE RULES

The same shapes can be sorted by number of sides, by equal sides, or by parallel sides.



3 sides



4 sides



5 sides



no corners

A sort is only finished when every shape has a home and the rule still holds.

TEACHER MODELLING ROUTINE

I do → We do → You do

WATCH FOR

Sorting by colour or size instead of by a shape feature.

REMEMBER

Say it to students as: "What is your sorting rule, and does every shape follow it?"

MATERIALS

Shape tiles, sorting hoops, pattern blocks, straws, sorting mats, sticky labels.

Teacher note: ask students to sort the same collection twice with different rules. Seeing one shape land in different groups is what shows them a shape has many features at once.