

MATH MOMENTS

MARCH 2015

For the March newsletter, we would like to put a spotlight on Geometry! Beginning in the primary grades and moving up through the grade levels, geometry is yet another concept that builds from the previous grade. The elementary focus on geometry consists of three major components which are: properties of shapes, composing and decomposing shapes and spatial relationships. Much of geometry is interwoven into other topics like fractions, measurement and solving word problems. With geometry comes many vocabulary words with definitions that can become overwhelming. Having a way of organizing these terms in some form such as a notebook, graphic organizer, table or using flash cards may be very beneficial.

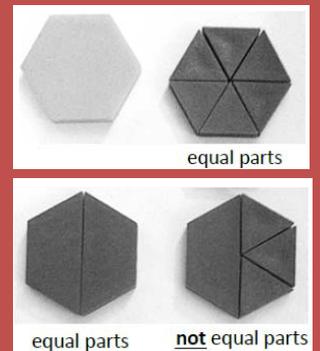
~Vestal's Elementary Math Support Team: Joan Pokorak, Geri Tastle & Molly Russell

<p>hexagon closed shape with 6 straight sides</p>	<p>rectangle closed shape with 4 straight sides and 4 square corners</p>
<p>square closed shape with 4 straight sides of the same length and 4 square corners</p>	<p>triangle closed shape with 3 straight sides</p>

SPOTLIGHT ON PRIMARY

The standards for Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 focus on three major aspects of geometry:

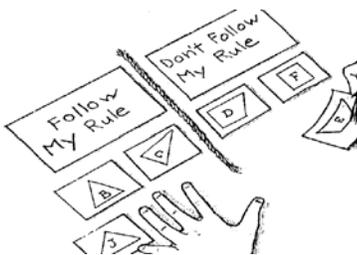
1. understanding properties of shapes
2. composing and decomposing
3. spatial structures and relations



Grade 2 also focuses on using measurement when working with shapes.

(progressions document-geometry—commoncoretools.wordpress.com)

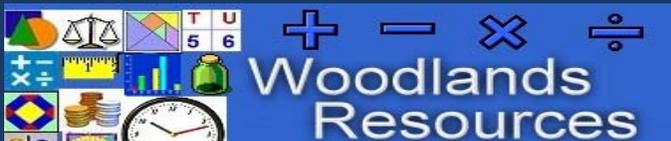
WAYS TO HELP AT HOME



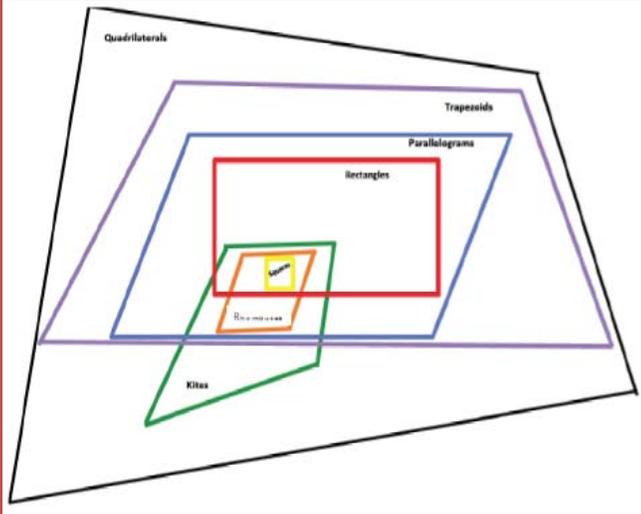
What's My Rule Game!

One person chooses a shape to be "it." Then display a few shapes at a time in a T-chart like the one pictured. Keep going until the other person guesses the shape and tells the attributes associated with that shape.

MUST-VISIT WEBSITE



<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/shapes/tangrams.html>



SPOTLIGHT ON INTERMEDIATE

For grades 3-5, categorizing shapes start to play a major role in the study of geometry. Students start to sort and classify shapes based on properties. Students learn that some shapes can be classified more than one way. By definition, squares are also rectangles as well as parallelograms. Spatial structures for two- and three dimensional shapes are also explored.

(progressions document-geometry—commoncoretools.wordpress.com)

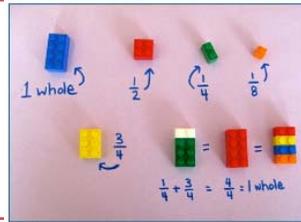
WAYS TO HELP AT HOME

LEGO PLAY!!!

** Build a shape with Legos and ask your child to create the same shape.



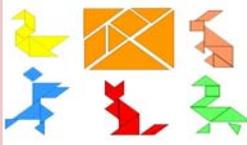
** Have a discussion about fractions.



** Create Arrays.

** Or, just play!

This month's puzzler...



Making Shapes with Tangrams

Try making these shapes with Tangrams. Go to this website for pieces to print, cut out and create. <http://www.parentingscience.com/tangrams-for-kids.html>



Geometry 4 Kids \$0.99

GREAT MATH APPS



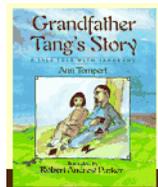
Video Geometry Tutor \$1.99



HMH Fuse: Geometry

Grandfather Tang's Story
Ann Tompert.

Grandfather tells a story about shape-changing fox fairies who try to beat each other until a hunter brings danger to both of them.



Literature

and
Math:



The Greedy Triangle
Marilyn Burns

In this introduction to polygons, a triangle convinces a shape shifter to make him a quadrilateral and later a pentagon, but discovers that where angles and sides are concerned, more isn't always better.