

Name _____

Date _____

Measuring Polygons

Family Letter



Related Activities to Try at Home (page 1 of 2)

Dear Families,

The activities below are related to the mathematics in the Geometry and Measurement unit *Measuring Polygons*. You can use the activities to enrich your child's mathematical learning experience.

Playing "I Spy" Polygons and Angles To help your child continue to investigate the properties of polygons (especially triangles and quadrilaterals) and patterns involving their sides and angles, find figures around the house that fit a rule and play a guessing game. For example, you might look at a mirror and say, "I'm thinking of something in this room that has two equal sides, at least two equal angles, and at least two parallel sides. What could it be?" You might then look in that room and others to see how many things you can find that could actually fit that rule.

Practicing Perimeter Estimating or calculating the perimeter of objects around the house is a good way to help your child use this concept in a variety of situations. There are many examples: the perimeter of a rectangular table, the perimeter of a room or rug, the perimeter of the refrigerator door or sink. You can measure perimeter in standard units of measure (such as inches or centimeters) or in nonstandard units (such as hand widths).

- Work with your child on estimating perimeters by measuring the perimeter of one object (for example, the sink), and then using this information to estimate the perimeter of a nearby object (for example, the refrigerator door).

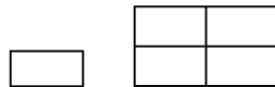
(continued)



Related Activities to Try at Home (page 2 of 2)

- Look for objects to measure that are other shapes besides rectangles. Can your child begin to estimate the perimeter of circular objects, such as a round table? Find the perimeter of a round table by walking or measuring around the outside of the table. Compare this perimeter with those of rectangular objects such as tables and rugs.

Drawing Similar Figures Practice making *similar* figures with your child. In mathematical terms, this means drawing figures to scale. For example, have your child draw a rectangle, and then draw a similar rectangle by keeping the angles the same but increasing the lengths of the sides proportionally. You and your child can alternate drawing similar figures.



Math and Literature You and your child can explore more math activities in this book. Look for a copy at your local library.

VanCleave, Janice. *Janice VanCleave's Geometry for Every Kid: Easy Activities that Make Learning Geometry Fun.*

