

SCHOOL to HOME Connections

Chapter 18 Two-Dimensional Shapes

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will study polygons. Some of the skills your child will practice are:

- classifying polygons and quadrilaterals
- combining and separating polygons to make other polygons
- sliding, flipping, and turning shapes
- identifying congruent and symmetric figures
- using folding to find a line of symmetry

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Activity

If we take a closer look at the things around us, we will see that symmetry exists in nature as well as in man-made objects. Have your child look for symmetry in the home or outside to gain a further appreciation of the beauty of geometric shapes.

- Together with your child, look for and make a list of symmetrical shapes around the house. For example, the pattern on the tablecloth.
- Help your child do a search on the Internet for symmetry in architecture, such as the Taj Mahal of India and the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.
- Ask your child: 'What buildings can you think of in our town that employ the use of symmetry in their architecture?'

Vocabulary to Practice

A **polygon** is a closed plane figure formed by three or more line segments.

A **vertex** is a point where two sides of a polygon meet.

Identical figures are **congruent**. They have the same shape and size.

Symmetry occurs when two halves of a figure fit each other exactly when folded along a line.

A **line of symmetry** divides a figure into two congruent halves. The congruent halves fit each other exactly when folded along this line.