

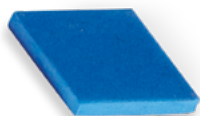
Pattern Blocks



Green
Triangle



Orange
Square



Blue
Parallelogram



Tan
Rhombus



Red
Trapezoid



Yellow
Hexagon

What's My Shape Worth?

Overview: In this activity, students investigate areas of different shapes and discover that shapes may have the same area but look different. They also perform computations with money.

Materials: Pattern Blocks, paper, pencil

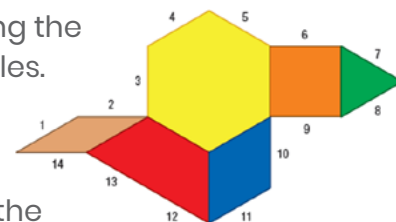
- Have students make a design using 10 Pattern Blocks. Use any combination of green, blue, red, or yellow blocks. Their design must have at least 1 of each kind of block.
- Tell students that the blue parallelogram is worth 10¢. Have students calculate the total cost of their design based on this. Have them use the paper and pencil to show their work.
- Repeat this activity with different monetary values. Alternatively, challenge students to build a design that will be worth \$1 or to build the most expensive pattern using only 10 blocks.

A Seat at the Table

Overview: In this activity, students investigate the perimeter of polygons and of composite shapes.

Materials: Pattern Blocks, paper, pencil

- Have students use all 6 different Pattern Blocks exactly 1 time to create a design for a table.
- For a person to sit at the table, he or she will need 1 unit of space along the outside. Have students find out how many people can sit at their tables.
- Ask students, "How can you rearrange the pieces, to create a table that can seat a different number of people?"
- Have students continue designing new tables until they have found the designs which can seat the greatest and least number of people. Have students make a sketch of each design.



What is the Angle?

Overview: In this activity, students explore angles as they relate to geometry and measurement.

Materials: Pattern Blocks, protractor, paper, pencil

- Have students place 2 square Pattern Blocks together. Ask students, "If we know that the straight line formed at the bottom is 180° , what is the value of each angle marked?" Have students check their work with a protractor.
- Have students use 3 triangle Pattern Blocks to form a straight line. Then, have them determine the value of the angle that makes up the straight line. Have students check their work with the protractor.
- Ask students, "What are the angles of the other shapes? Can you use the measurement of the triangle to help?"

