

Activity Sheet 2

MAKE MY SHAPE (TRIANGLES AND SQUARES)

Students construct and identify polygons by counting the number of sides and the number of vertices.

Materials:

Round toothpicks

Miniature marshmallows (These are better when they are a day old and have been exposed to air.)

Pencil and paper for recording

Procedure:

1. Divide students into groups of two or three.
2. In the center of the work surface (table or grouped desks), each group will have sufficient marshmallows and toothpicks for construction of models.
3. Demonstrate how to connect a toothpick to a marshmallow without pushing the toothpick all the way through the marshmallow.
4. Ask each student to construct a triangle from three toothpicks and three marshmallows.
5. Have some students describe their models to the class.
6. Ask each student to construct a square from four toothpicks and four marshmallows.
7. Have students explain the difference between a square and a triangle.
8. Allow students in each group to compare their triangles and squares to find congruent shapes. (They can match the length of the sides.)
9. Have each student write a letter to someone describing how the shapes were constructed and how a square is different from a triangle. Encourage the students to draw pictures to help in their explanations.