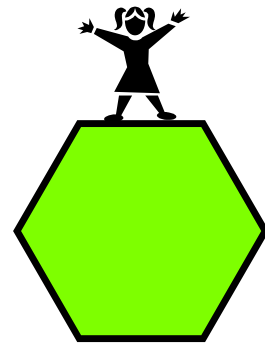


Exploring the Basics

Power Pack Suggestions

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Creating a Foundation for Geometry

Have you ever noticed how some kids perk up when you start your geometry unit? The students who struggle with abstract concepts and numbers seem to come alive when asked to create shapes on geoboards or put together Tangram puzzles. Suddenly they are the experts, the ones who can see geometry in the world around them. Unfortunately, as children get older, they are also expected to master the language of geometry and learn dozens of words that have special mathematical meanings. Even visual learners who love playing with shapes will struggle without the labels to describe the concepts they are exploring. It's critical that students master these basics before they have to tackle increasingly complex geometric concepts, and that's what this book is all about.

Exploring the Basics consists of a variety of lessons and activities designed to help students master the basic concepts of geometry. You'll find lots of blackline masters and games for introducing lines, line relationships, and simple polygons. You'll also find a variety of review activities and two forms of a simple paper-and-pencil assessment. What you won't find is complex problem solving activities – kids need to master the basics before they are ready for higher level thinking, and this book is just about the basics. This is the first Exploring Geometry Power Pack and future books in the series will provide plenty of problem-solving experiences. Begin by creating a foundation with the basics, and students will soon be ready for problem solving.

How to Use this Power Pack

Most teachers will want to introduce lines and angles first and then move on to polygons. These activities may be introduced slowly to explore new concepts or quickly to revisit prior learning. Don't feel you need to teach every lesson; choose only the activities that meet your needs. Then use the blackline masters in the Review and Assess section to determine if further instruction is needed. Many of the materials in this book are designed to be used as overhead transparencies or projected onto an interactive whiteboard, while others can be used as games for reviewing concepts. Be sure to engage students actively with cooperative learning and hands-on materials like geoboards. Most of all, enjoy these lessons and have fun as you enable your students to master the basics!