

Activity 2



ACTIVITY

Classifying Triangles

Overview

Students build and record four different triangles on their geoboards. Then they classify their triangles, first by angle size and then by side length.

Skills & Concepts

- ★ classify triangles by the length of their sides as either scalene, isosceles, or equilateral
- ★ classify triangles by the size of their angles as either acute, obtuse, or right
- ★ use appropriate tools to measure objects to the nearest quarter inch
- ★ classify angles as either right, acute, or obtuse

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★ Instructions for Classifying Triangles

1. Give students a ruler/straight-edge and pencils. Then give them each a geoboard and a copy of the Triangles Record Sheet. Explain that they are going to make and record 4 different triangles today. Demonstrate by making a triangle on a geoboard. Then show students how to copy your triangle onto the Triangles Record Sheet. Solicit advice from students about how to do this carefully and accurately as you are working.

2. Have students create 4 triangles on their geoboards and draw them on their Triangle Record sheet as they create them. Remind them to make 4 different triangles. Encourage them to make triangles that are different than the one you made, and different from each others if more than one student is working. As they work, talk with them about their triangles. What kinds of angles do they notice as they create their triangles? Can they point out acute, obtuse, and /or right angles in their work?

3. When finished, show and discuss the Types of Triangles sheet. Work with students to examine and classify their triangles. As they work, have students discuss their reasoning and correct any misconceptions.

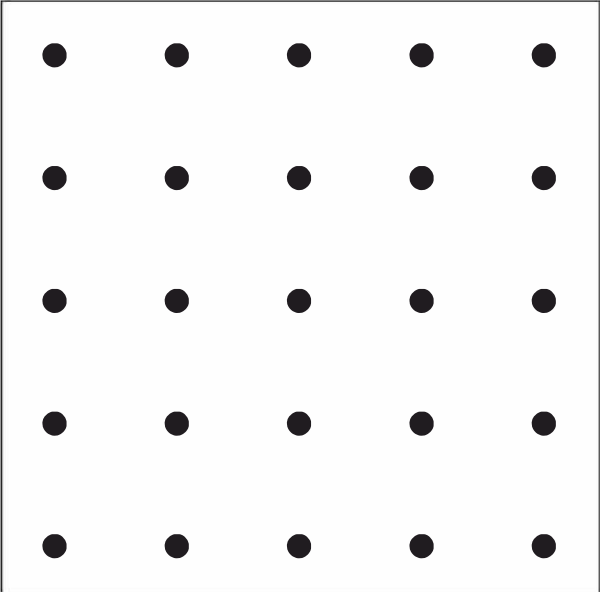
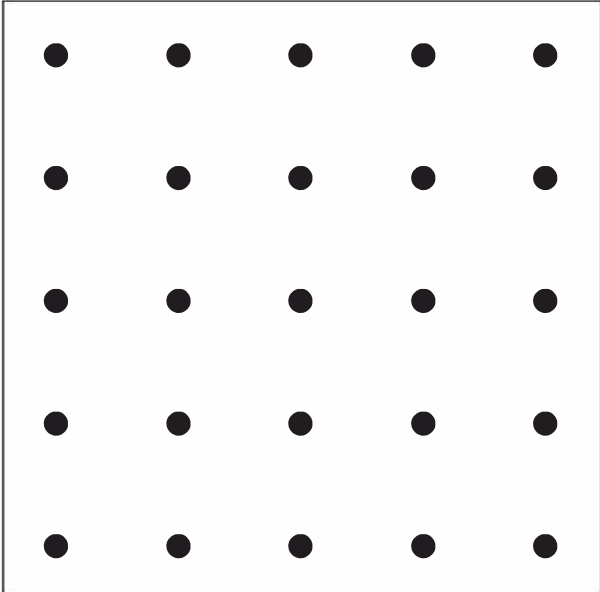
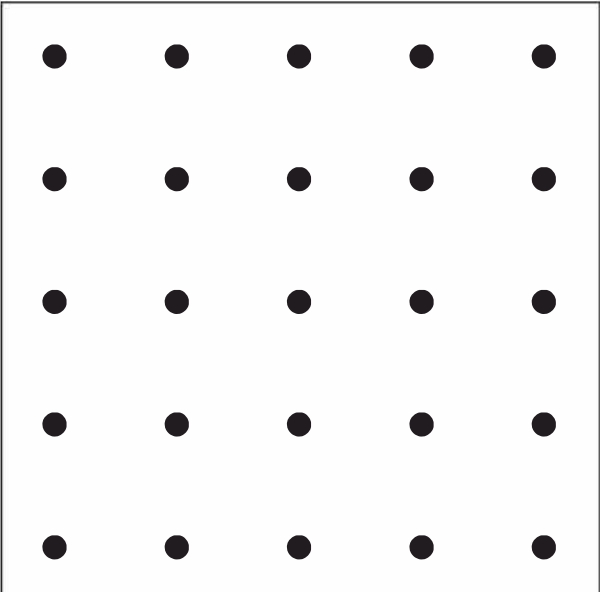
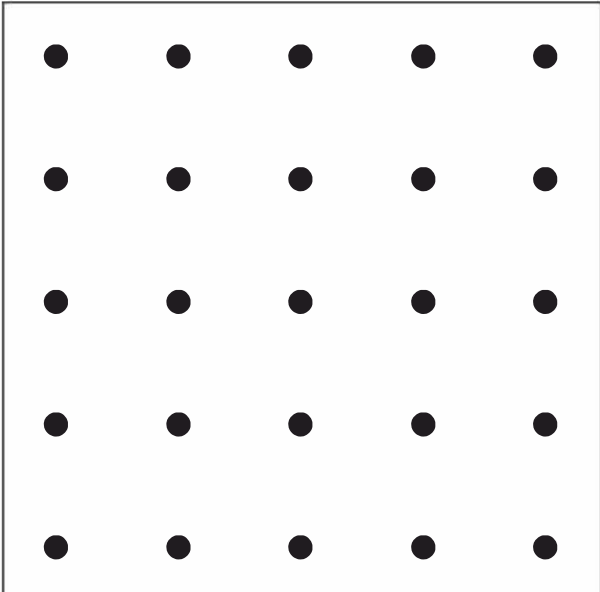
You'll need

- ★ Triangles Record Sheet (attached)
- ★ Types of Triangles (attached)
- ★ geoboards and rubberbands (actual manipulative or virtual)
- ★ ruler or straight edge (book, craft stick, etc.)

NAME _____

DATE _____

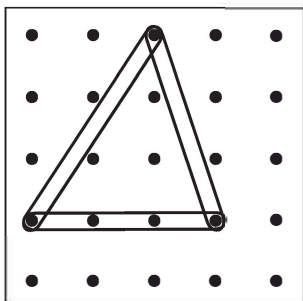
Triangles Record Sheet

Types of Triangles

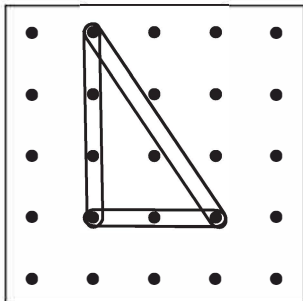
You can classify triangles by the size of their angles.

Acute Triangle



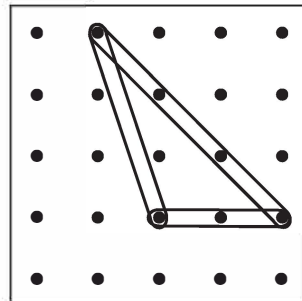
All 3 angles are acute.

Right Triangle



One of the angles is a right angle.

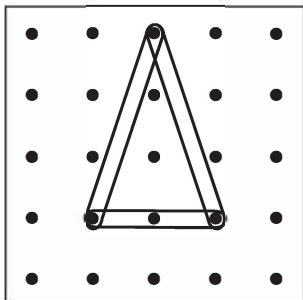
Obtuse Triangle



One of the angles is obtuse.

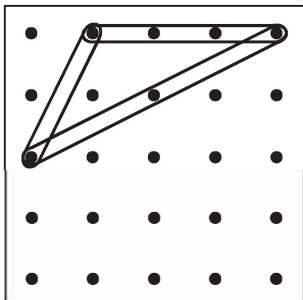
You can also classify triangles by the length of their sides.

Isosceles Triangle



Two sides are the same length.

Scalene Triangle



Each side is a different length.

Equilateral Triangle

Each side is the same length.

Are any of the triangles you made on the geoboard equilaterals?

Can you make an equilateral triangle on a geoboard?