

Shape snakes

Activity 1

Focus of activity: Making repeating shape patterns.

Working together: conceptual understanding

- Use 2-D shapes to create a simple repeating pattern, e.g. triangle, triangle, circle, triangle, triangle, circle, etc. Ensure that the triangles are all the same size and colour, and the circles are all the same as each other to help children see the pattern. Read along the pattern together.
- Ask children what shape they think comes next. Continue the pattern until all children have picked up the repetition.
- Change the shape to make a different pattern, e.g. square, circle, circle, square, circle, circle. Ask children what shape they think comes next. Continue the pattern until all children have picked up the repetition.
- Create a new pattern using three shapes, e.g. triangle, circle, square, triangle, circle, square...
- Children draw the next three shapes on their whiteboards. Do they all agree?
- Repeat with a new pattern, e.g. circle, triangle square, square, circle, triangle, square, square...

Up for a challenge?

Create a pattern using both colour and shape, e.g.



What's the next shape in this pattern? What colour should it be?

Now it's the children's turn:

- Children draw and colour shapes to complete patterns on snakes.
- Go round the group and ask children to describe the patterns as they continue them.

S-t-r-e-t-c-h:

If children cope well, ask them to create their own shape patterns, printing them using sponge shapes and paint.

Things to remember

Remember that these patterns are made of small groups of shapes which we repeat in the same order. Ask a child to describe one of their shape snake patterns. Repeat for other children.

You may want to add something that has emerged from the activity. This may refer to misconceptions or mistakes made.

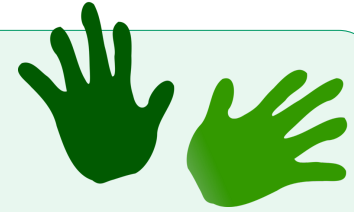
Resources	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lots of plastic circles, triangles and squares• Mini whiteboards• Sponge shapes for printing and paint in shallow paint trays	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children can continue a repeating pattern.2. Children begin to create their own repeating patterns.

Shape snakes

Activity 1

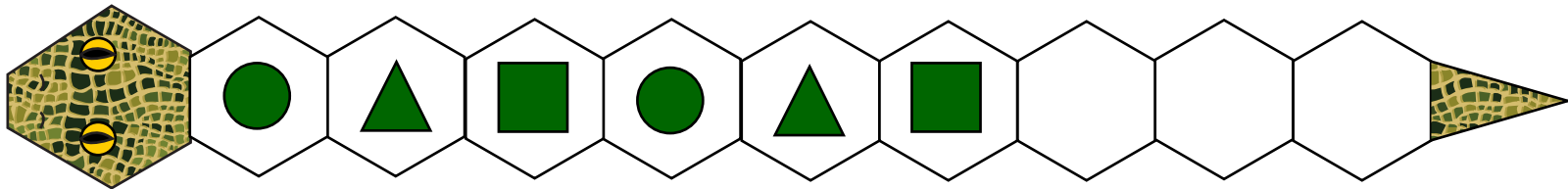
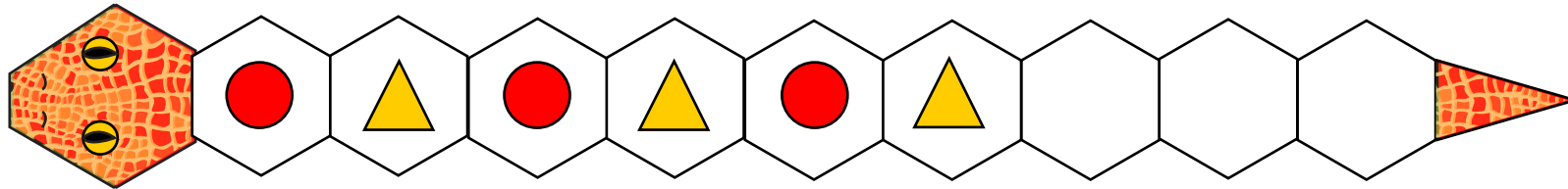
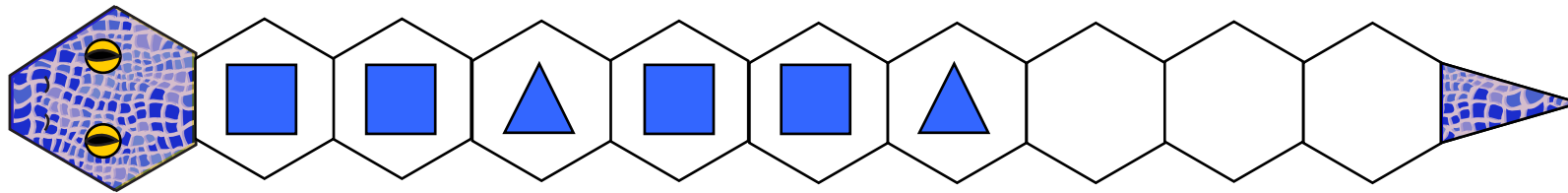
Things you will need:

- A pencil
- Coloured pencils or crayons



What to do:

- Draw the next three shapes in each pattern. Colour them to match the pattern.



S-t-r-e-t-c-h:

Print your own shape snake pattern.

Learning outcomes:

- I can carry on a repeating pattern.
- I am beginning to make up my own repeating patterns.

Shape snakes

Activity 1

