

Grade K • Module 2

Two-Dimensional and Three-Dimensional Shapes

OVERVIEW

In Module 1, students began the year observing their world. What is exactly the same? What is the same but...? They matched and sorted according to criteria sequenced from simple to complex. Their perceptions evolved into observations about numbers to 10. “4 is missing 1 to make 5.” “4 plus 1 more is 5.” “There are the same number of dogs and flowers, 6.”

In this module, students seek out flat and solid shapes in their world (**K.G.1**). Empowered by this lens, they begin to make connections between the wheel of a bicycle, the moon, and the top of an ice cream cone. Just as the number 4 allowed them to quantify 4 mountains and 4 mice as equal numbers, learning to identify flats and solids allows them to see the relationship of the simple to the complex, a mountain’s top to a plastic triangle and cone sitting on their desk.

To open Topic A, students find and describe flat shapes in their environment using informal language, without naming them at first (**K.G.4**). In Lesson 2, they classify the shapes, juxtaposing them with various examples and non-examples. This process further refines their ability to talk about the shapes, for example, as closed or having straight sides. The naming of the flat shape as a triangle is part of that process, not the focus of it (**K.G.2, K.G.1**).

The same process is then repeated with rectangles in Lesson 3 and hexagons and circles in Lesson 4. In Lesson 5, students manipulate all the flat shapes using position words as the teacher gives directives such as, “Move the closed shape with three straight sides behind the shape with six straight sides.” These positioning words are subsequently woven into the instructional program, at times in math fluency activities, but also throughout the entire school day.

The lessons of Topic B replicate those of Topic A but with solid shapes. In addition, students recognize the presence of the flats within the solids. The module closes in Topic C with discrimination between flats and solids. A culminating task involves students in creating displays of a given flat shape with counter-examples and showing related solid shapes (**K.G.3**).

The fluency components in the lessons of Module 1 included activities wherein students used a variety of triangles and rectangles to practice the decompositions of 3 and 4. Flats and solids will continue to be included in fluency activities in this module and throughout the year so that students have repeated experiences with shapes, their attributes, and their names. Daily number fluency practice in this new module is critical. There are two main goals of consistent fluency practice: (1) to solidify the numbers of Module 1 and (2) to anticipate the numbers of Modules 3, 4, and 5. Therefore, students continue to work extensively with numbers to 10 and fluency with addition and subtraction to 5.

The Kindergarten year closes in Module 6 with another geometry unit. By that time, having become much more familiar with flats and solids, the students compose new flat shapes (“Can you make a rectangle from these two triangles?”) and build solid shapes from components (“Let’s use these straws to be the edges and these balls of clay to be the corners of a cube!”). This module will allow them to bring together all that they have learned throughout the year as they manipulate shapes and their components (K.G.4, K.G.5).