
PATTERNS ACTIVITY



LEARNING GOALS

Students will be able to use observations to describe patterns in the built environment in order to answer scientific questions.

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO

- observe and identify patterns (NGSS LS1-2)
- gather information from provided sources to answer questions (CACCSS W 8)
- use illustrations to extend the meaning of a presentation (CACCSS L 5)
- describe objects with relevant details (CACCSS SL 4)



VOCABULARY

pattern

A group of repeated sounds.



MATERIALS

Student Worksheet



STUDENT WORKSHEET PAGES



PROCEDURE

Begin by discussing how patterns can be used in music. Patterns occur everywhere and are a part of everyday life.

Have students look at their Student Worksheet. The first example on the page is a completed pattern: triangle, circle, triangle, circle, etc.

Ask the students to look at the next patterns, which are not complete. Have the students complete the patterns on the Student Worksheet. Next have them create their own patterns. Ask the students to share one of their patterns with a partner.

As a class, discuss some examples of everyday patterns that they see at school (how many times the bell rings each day, how many big lines are on a ruler, how many desks per group in the classroom, etc.).

Besides patterns in the classroom, ask students the following questions:

- Where else do patterns exist?
- Can they identify patterns that they see at school every day?
- What makes each example a pattern?

Divide class into two groups, Group A and Group B:

- Group A: Observe the patterns in your classroom. Draw them on the Student Worksheet in the Patterns at My School activity.
- Group B: Observe the patterns of your school building. Draw them on the Student Worksheet.
- In pairs of one “A” and one “B” student, tell your partner what you observed. What makes it a pattern? Ask the students to make simple comparisons about their observations and to compare their drawings.

Close the class activity by having students share their patterns with the class. Summarize the list of patterns in the classroom and school.

Finally, reinforce to students that patterns are also used in music. Have students create a pattern with sounds using long and short claps, then share their sound patterns with the class.



LET'S MAKE A PATTERN

Patterns are great! They can make music! A pattern is a group of repeated sounds or shapes.

Here is an example:



Complete these patterns!



Create two of your own patterns!

Share one of your patterns with a partner.