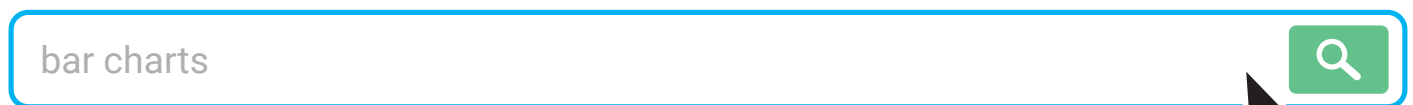


Year 1 Symmetry: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to learning about symmetry can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable steps, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring. Whether your child is just learning to spot matching shapes, or whether they are already aware of symmetry in the real world, there will be a step in this guide for your child.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Symmetry

What Symmetry Work Is Taught in Key Stage 1?

In years 1 and 2, symmetry can be taught as a practical hands-on topic. Teachers often introduce ideas of symmetry in art and craft activities before introducing it in a mathematical situation. Activities such as making symmetrical faces, looking sideways on at mirrors to see complete images and fold-printing to make symmetrical pictures, such as butterflies, are great fun. They also help children to prepare for learning to identify lines of symmetry in 2D shapes.

What Does the National Curriculum Say about Symmetry for Year 1?

The national curriculum for England does not formally mention the word 'symmetry' in guidance to teachers. However, it is a very practical area of the curriculum and children will study shapes that are symmetrical and use mirrors as they learn to explore the world around them.

How Do Children Start Identifying Lines of Symmetry?

Lines of symmetry can be thought of as 'mirror lines'. Later, children will learn that these lines are known as 'lines of reflective symmetry' as there are other types of symmetry too. However, it is reflective symmetry that children learn about during years 1 and 2. Children can explore if shapes are symmetrical in two ways. One involves putting a thin mirror across the middle where you expect a shape to perfectly reflect. The mirror should cut the object in half so that the shapes on both halves are equal. Another method is to exactly cut the shape out and try folding it. If you fold exactly down a line of reflective symmetry, the two halves will match exactly when the shape is folded. If you then open the shape back up and put a mirror on the fold, look into the shiny side of the mirror and the image will make the shape look complete.

Tall Mirrors

Your child could try exploring what happens if they stand at ninety degrees to a tall self-standing mirror with the left half of their body in front and the right half behind the mirror. Lifting the leg in front of the mirror makes it look like they're lifting both legs at once!

Make a Symmetrical Butterfly

Talk to your child about how butterfly wings are symmetrical. Fold a large piece of landscape paper in half and unfold. Draw half a butterfly (one wing, half a body) on one half. Get your child to use a large brush to paint a pattern on half a butterfly. Fold the page to get a full butterfly picture.

Cut Out Shapes

Try cutting out an exact rectangle, circle and equilateral triangle. Encourage your child to find how many ways they can fold each shape so that the sides match with no overlaps. Are all shapes the same?

Step 1

Folding Symmetry

This colourful poster shows how children will be expected to draw a line of symmetry when they work in year 2. To get them ready for this in year 1, cut out the shapes and get your child to check in two ways that the lines of symmetry work. Cut out each shape for your child first. It is important to do this yourself, so they are perfect. Get your child to place a plastic mirror on the symmetry line (mirror line) and look into the shiny side of the mirror. If the shape looks complete, that's a line of symmetry. Then get them to fold the shape along that line. If the shape matches perfectly when folded, it's a line of symmetry.

Mirror Symmetry

This line of symmetry activity just needs access to a thin plastic mirror. Hold the small mirror against the line of symmetry in the centre of the images and show your child how to look into the shiny side to see if the image looks complete. This is a great preparation for drawing the second half of an image in the next step of this year 1 guide.

Step 2

Draw the Other Half

Bring out your child's artistic awareness with these lovely activity sheets. There is a pattern-matching version and a version to complete partly drawn pictures. Your child can use a mirror at the end of the activity and see if the shape looks right when reflecting their own half of each drawing.

Step 3

Symmetry Sorting Game

These well-chosen shapes encourage your child to spot images that have reflective symmetry and those that do not. Remind your child that if an object has reflective symmetry, they'll be able to find a way of looking at the shape where one half matches another half. Cut out the square cards before starting the activity and label an A4 page 'symmetrical' and the other 'not symmetrical'. They can check it out with a thin plastic mirror and then glue each image on the right page. Afterwards, check the images with a mirror together to see if the right shapes are in the right place.

Step 4

Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Go!



twinkl
Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire pupils from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!