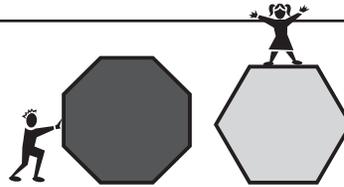


Geometric Shape Names

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics



Many geometric shapes are named based on the number of sides that they have. It's helpful to learn the meaning of these number prefixes. It can be like a secret code that helps you know the meaning of other complex words that use the same prefixes.

Triangles have three sides and three angles. The prefix *tri-* means *three*. Words that use the prefix *tri-* usually have something to do with three parts. For example, a tripod is a camera stand that has three legs. A triathlon is a difficult sports event in which the competitors have to participate in three different activities, such as running, swimming, and bicycling.

Quadrilaterals have four sides and four angles. The prefix *quad-* means *four*. A quadrant is a graphing chart with four sections. Dirt bikes with four wheels are called quads. The muscles in your arms that connect in four places are called quadriceps.

Pentagons have five sides and five angles. The prefix *penta-* means *five*. A pentagram is a five-pointed star. Poetry measured in groups of five syllable pairs is called pentameter.

Octagons have eight sides and eight angles. The prefix *oct-* means *eight*. An octopus has eight tentacles. A musical octave has eight notes. Octuplets are eight babies who are born at the same time to the same mother.

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) How do number prefixes help you understand the meaning of new words?

2) What do words that begin with tri- have in common?

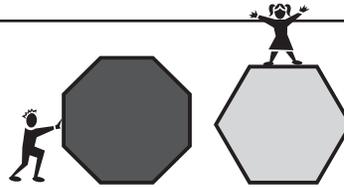
3) A *duet* is a song performed by two people. Based on the meaning of the prefix, what do you expect the word *octet* to mean? _____

4) *Triple* is three times the amount. Based on the meaning of the prefix, what do you expect the word *quadruple* to mean? _____

5) A *decagon* has ten sides. Why do we call a decimal a decimal? _____

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Name: **Key** _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

Actual wording of answers may vary.

1) How do number prefixes help you understand the meaning of new words?

They tell you something about the meaning of the new words.

2) What do words that begin with tri- have in common?

They all have something to do with three.

3) A *duet* is a song performed by two people. Based on the meaning of the prefix, what do you expect the word *octet* to mean?

a song performed by eight people

4) *Triple* is three times the amount. Based on the meaning of the prefix, what do you expect the word *quadruple* to mean?

four times the amount

5) A *decagon* has ten sides. Why do we call a decimal a decimal?

because it deals with tenths