Shape Spotters Sort

Sort polygons from other shapes by looking at their sides.

3.MG.4.d "Identify and name examples of polygons (triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, octagons) in the environment."

NAME _____ DATE _____

POLYGONS

A polygon is a closed, flat shape with only straight sides. Its sides meet at corners.

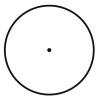
A rhombus is a polygon.



OTHER SHAPES

Other shapes may have a curved edge, may not be closed, or may be solid. They are not polygons.

A circle is not a polygon.



1 SORT

8 items

For each figure, circle POLYGONS or OTHER, then choose two figures and write how their sides or edges helped you decide.

1.

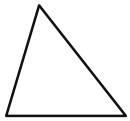


Figure 1

POLYGONS OTHER

2.

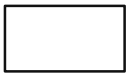


Figure 2

POLYGONS OTHER

3.



Figure 3

POLYGONS OTHER

4.

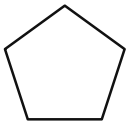


Figure 4

POLYGONS OTHER

5.

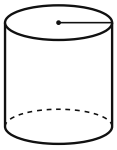


Figure 5

POLYGONS OTHER

6.

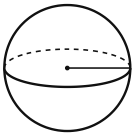


Figure 6

POLYGONS OTHER

7.

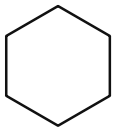


Figure 7

POLYGONS OTHER

8.

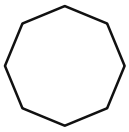


Figure 8

POLYGONS OTHER

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a POLYGON and one new example of an OTHER shape that you might see around you.

POLYGONS _____

OTHER _____

CHALLENGE

Look around your classroom. Name one object that is a polygon, write its shape name, and tell how many sides it has.

ANSWER KEY # Shape Spotters Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.MG.4.d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Figure 1 (triangle)	**POLYGONS**	A triangle is closed and has 3 straight sides.
2	Figure 2 (rectangle)	**POLYGONS**	A rectangle is closed and has 4 straight sides.
3	Figure 3 (semicircle)	**OTHER**	A semicircle has a curved edge.
4	Figure 4 (pentagon)	**POLYGONS**	A pentagon is closed and has 5 straight sides.
5	Figure 5 (cylinder)	**OTHER**	A cylinder is a solid, not a flat polygon.
6	Figure 6 (sphere)	**OTHER**	A sphere is a solid with a curved surface, not a flat polygon.
7	Figure 7 (hexagon)	**POLYGONS**	A hexagon is closed and has 6 straight sides.
8	Figure 8 (octagon)	**POLYGONS**	An octagon is closed and has 8 straight sides.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **POLYGONS**: A yield sign is a triangle.
- **OTHER**: A clock face is a circle, so it is not a polygon.

Challenge: A square floor tile is a quadrilateral. It has 4 sides.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify straight sides and a closed shape for polygons, or a curve or solid shape for OTHER. Accept reasonable classroom examples in Part 3 and the challenge when the shape name and side count are correct.