



# SHAPES AND WONDERS: EXPLORING GEOMETRY IN 1ST GRADE

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Our first-grade class learned about the world of geometry in our most recent math unit! Students not only learned how to identify and classify shapes by their attributes but also how to draw, build, compose, and decompose shapes. From scavenger hunts around the classroom to hands-on activities with geoboards and pattern blocks, each lesson has been filled with thinking, learning, and making connections.

One of the highlights of our unit has been the emphasis on critical thinking. Through open-ended questions and activities, students were encouraged to explore the similarities and differences between shapes, think about what defines a given shape, and articulate the reasoning behind their choices. For instance, when tasked with creating a hexagon using pattern blocks, students were challenged to discover all the possible combinations using triangles, rhombuses, and trapezoids. Every group came up with multiple different ways to create hexagons, sparking a lively discussion about their findings.

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But our exploration went beyond just the classroom. We made connections between geometry and the world around us, recognizing the order and beauty in God's creation. As we noticed shapes found in nature, from the leaves and trunk of a tree to the patterns of a flower, we couldn't help but see the fingerprints of our Creator. In every lesson and discussion, students were encouraged to delve deeper, to explain the "why" and "how" behind their understanding of shapes, moving beyond mere identification to a deeper level of comprehension. Through this process, they not only honed their mathematical skills but also cultivated a sense of wonder and appreciation for the world around them.

As we finish our geometry unit, I have loved seeing the students' growth and enthusiasm for learning. Their engagement, curiosity, and ability to make connections between math and the real world have been inspiring. Together, we are nurturing young minds to think critically, explore deeply, and appreciate the beauty and order in God's creation!

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