

Finding Symmetry in Nature Project

Our natural environment offers limitless opportunities for learning experiences. The various shapes and patterns found in nature provide a great introduction to the concept of symmetry. For this month's challenge, create a poster highlighting different examples of symmetry in nature.

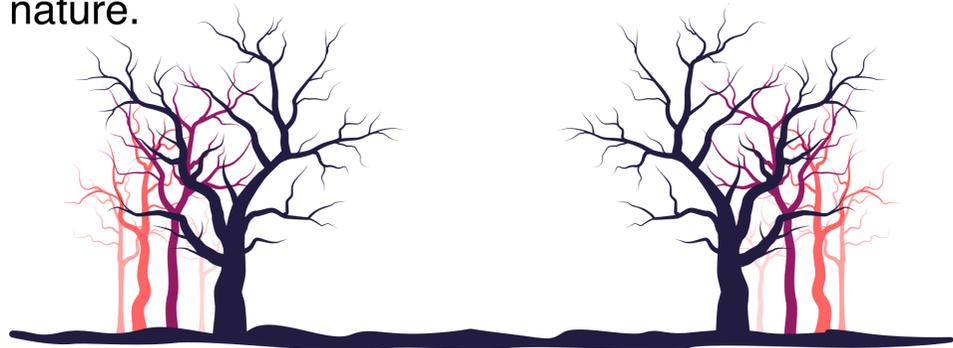
Go on a nature walk in the woods near your house, around your neighborhood, or in a nearby park. Take pictures of the different items you find on the walk – sticks, leaves, pinecones, and tree stumps are great items to capture for this project. Talk with a parent about what makes a shape symmetrical and why. Make guesses on whether the objects you photograph are symmetrical. When you get home, use a colored pencil and paper to draw a picture of the items you photographed so that you can study them more closely.

Focus on two types of symmetry – reflection symmetry (one half of the image is a reflection of the other half) and rotational symmetry (an image can be rotated on a central point and still look the same). You can use a small mirror on your drawings to see if the images are an example of reflection symmetry (place the mirror in the middle of the image to test for symmetry).

After you test all of the images, place them into three categories on a piece of poster paper:

Not symmetrical images
Reflection symmetry images
Rotational symmetry images

After you've completed your poster, share it with your friends and family. Ask them about some of the symmetrical items they've recently seen in nature.



ZoFo Connect

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Nature provides a fun, hands-on way to learn certain math concepts. This month we are going to learn about symmetry using items we find in our natural environment.

Did You Know?

Snowflakes exhibit radial symmetry, a type of rotational symmetry that occurs when an object can be turned around a central axis and mirror itself. Every one sixth of a revolution around this axis will produce a design that is identical to the original snowflake.

Disclaimer: Supervision and safety of children participating in these activities is not the responsibility of Zoology Foundation. All children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

We'd love to see you completing this activity. If you would like, please send us a picture of your collage so that we can share it on social media. Please email pictures to info@zoologyfoundation.org.



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