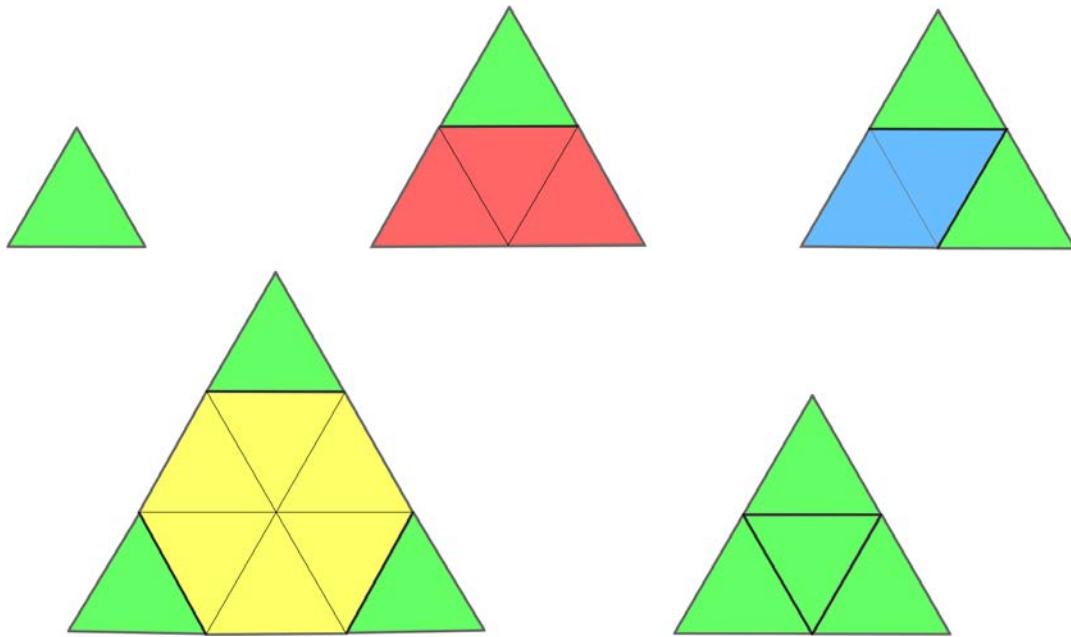


Puzzle of the Week

Pattern Blocks – Triangles

Using just four of the standard pattern block shapes, here are examples of making triangles with one, two, three, and four of those shapes.



THE CHALLENGE: For each of the numbers from 5 to 10, make a triangle that uses that many of these shapes.

EXPLORATION: Can you find more than one way to do some of these? Extend your list of possible numbers to 20!

Puzzle of the Week

Pattern Blocks – Triangles – Notes

THE CHALLENGE & EXPLORATION: There are a very large number of ways to do this. Any design that involves a parallelogram can be used to create a triangle with one more triangle by splitting the parallelogram into two triangles. Similarly, trapezoids can be split into a parallelogram and a triangle. Also, hexagons can be split into two trapezoids, three parallelograms, or six triangles. All of these give automatic ways of creating triangles with one additional shape over and over again.

Here are just a few of the starting numbers. There are too many to attempt to show them all. Some of the patterns your students create will make pretty patterns and may look good hung on the walls of your classroom.

