

1

Choosing your own repeating unit

Model creating a repeating pattern by first choosing a repeating unit, such as square, square, circle, then building it out several times using shapes, repeating the unit exactly each time so the pattern stays consistent.

"I am choosing my repeating unit first: square, square, circle. Now I will repeat it three more times."

"Does my second square, square, circle match the first one exactly?"

Run a finger along the finished pattern and ask students to say the repeating unit each time it comes around.

2

The same pattern in claps and stamps

With the square square circle line still on the table, choose an action for each shape from the three on the action page of this resource, then stand up and perform the line, one action for each shape, going back to the start and running it again.

"Square is a stamp and circle is a clap. Stamp, stamp, clap."

"Is that the same pattern as the one on the table, or a different one?"

It is the same pattern, because the unit comes in the same order. What a pattern is made of and what its unit is are two different questions, and this is where students first meet that.

This activity should be done with real, moveable materials. Cut out the unit cards.
Each card is one repeating unit to build from.



This activity should be done standing up, with room to clap, stamp and jump. Keep this page where everybody can see it.

The three actions



clap



stamp



jump

The same pattern, two ways



These are the same pattern, because the unit comes in the same order both times.