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Introduction

Packed with hundreds of quick tips, fun ideas, and reproducibles, the *Fast Ideas for Busy Teachers: Math* series provides a wonderful resource designed to make a busy teacher's life easier. Ideas for stocking and organizing your math center, individual and group activities, games, reproducibles, patterns, puzzles, explorations of concepts, and much more invite students to learn about math through creative and fun hands-on activities.

Fast Ideas for Busy Teachers: Math supplements your math curriculum with warm-up or follow-up exercises, take-home pages, in-class assignments, and rainy-day activities to help students master a variety of mathematical concepts and skills. Organization by content related to various math skills makes it quick and easy to find the material you need, when you need it. A wide variety of open-ended material allows you to adapt activities to meet the specific needs of your class or individual students. Watch enthusiasm for math grow as students discover how valuable and fun learning math can be!

Teacher resource pages include organizational tips; suggestions for manipulatives; patterns; and a variety of individual, partner, and small group activities designed to increase students' understanding of math. Preparation time and supplies needed are minimal and include items normally available in classrooms.

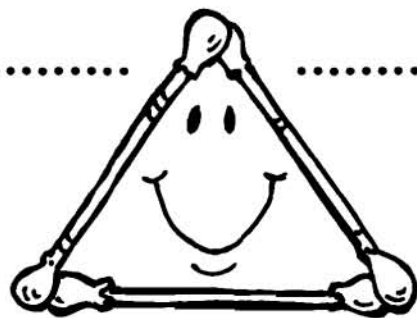
Fast Ideas for Busy Teachers: Math topics and skill areas are based on the current NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, designed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. They include number and operations; algebra; geometry; measurement; data analysis and probability skills through problem-solving strategies, reasoning and proof, mathematical connections, representations, and communications. For specific information, see the matrix showing the correlation of the activities and tips to the NCTM Standards.

Fast Ideas for Busy Teachers: Math allows you to plan creative, motivating activities and incorporate them in your math curriculum. Best of all, students' enthusiasm for math grows when math becomes an adventure of fun and discovery!





Make Flat Shapes.....

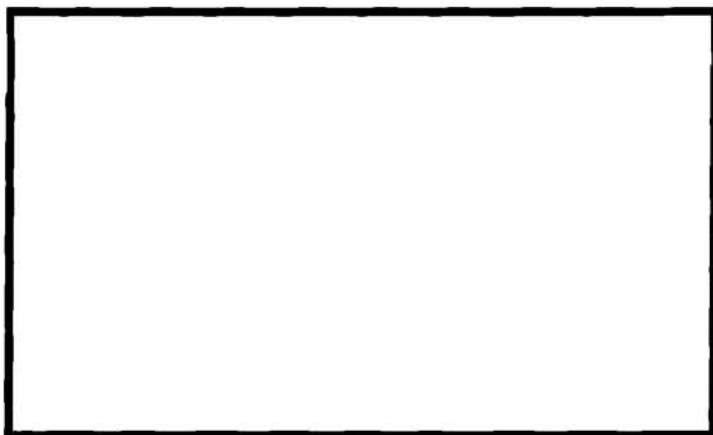


Use 12 cotton swabs. Write the answers.

1. Make a square.
How many swabs did you use? _____
How many sides and corners does your square have? _____
2. Make a triangle.
How many swabs did you use? _____
How many sides and corners does your triangle have? _____
3. Make a rectangle.
How many swabs did you use? _____
How many sides and corners does your rectangle have? _____
4. Make a different rectangle.
How many swabs did you use? _____
How many sides and corners does your rectangle have? _____

5. Use 12 swabs. Make an interesting shape with it.
Draw the shape in the box.

How many sides and corners does your shape have? _____



What did you learn about the number of sides and corners of flat shapes?