



Patterns in Nature

A pattern is something that repeats. Patterns are everywhere and can be made of many things, including shapes, letters, colors, sounds, and more. Patterns are important because they help us remember what comes next.

Practice Patterns

Stretching

Stretch your arms up, try to touch the ceiling. Stretch your arms out to the side and look to one side, then the other. Crouch down like a frog and touch the ground. Now stand up and spin in a circle. Repeat these actions two times. This is a pattern! By doing the same thing over and over, you've created a pattern with your body.

Clapping

Clap once, then pause, then clap again, then pause again. This is a pattern! The clap and pause repeat to create a pattern. Make it more complicated by adding more claps and creating different rhythms.

Jumping Jacks

Do 10 jumping jacks in a row. You just made two patterns! The movement of your body as you did the jumping jacks and the pattern of jumping jack then pausing.

Patterns in Nature

The images on the following pages feature patterns. Working together, find the pattern(s) and complete the activities. When you're finished, continue looking for all types of patterns in your home and neighborhood.

Zebra

What patterns do you see? Trace over them on the picture.

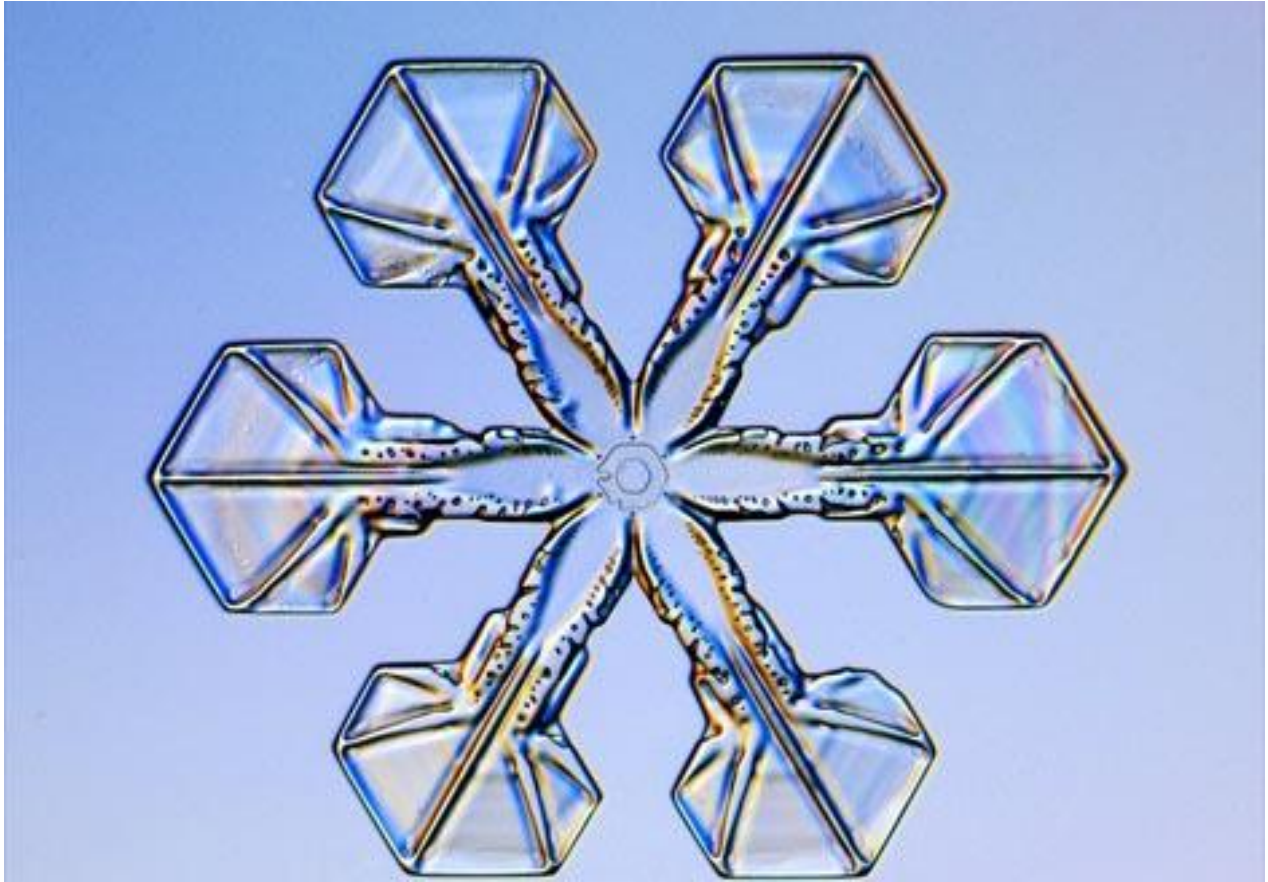


Zebras have patterns for camouflage. When a group of zebras are standing together their stripes confuse the predator, making it harder for the predator to tell how many zebras there are or where one zebra stops and the next begins.

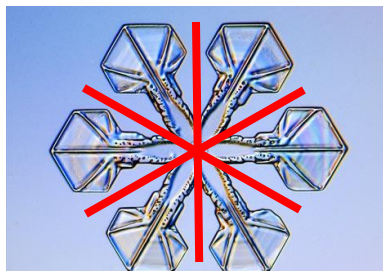
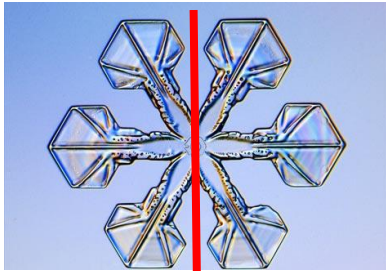
Draw a zebra below but give them a different pattern. What if they had polka dots or checkers?

Snowflake Under a Microscope

What patterns do you see? Trace over them on the picture.



This snowflake is symmetrical, meaning that it is the same on both sides. The pattern also rotates around a central point, like a wheel.



Design your own symmetrical snowflake below.

Kunming Lake in Beijing, China

What patterns do you see? Trace over them on the picture.



A landscape architect plans, designs, manages, and maintains natural environments. Patterns are nice to look at, and can often be found in landscape architecture.

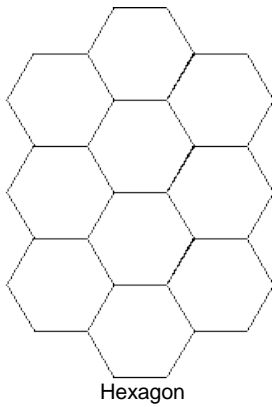
Design a garden below. Try to arrange your plants in patterns.

Honeycomb

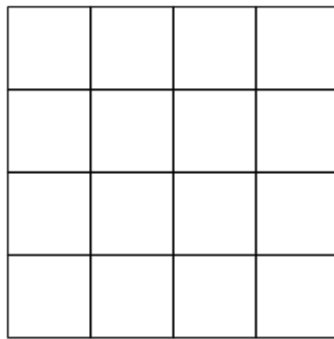
What patterns do you see? Trace over them on the picture.



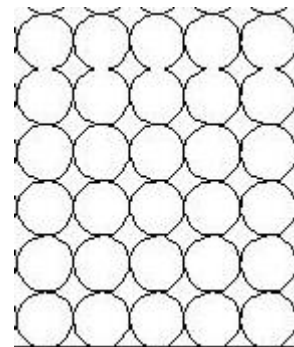
Honeycombs are made out of hexagons because it's easy and efficient. It uses the least amount of wax to contain the most amount of honey, and there's no leftover empty space in between.



Hexagon

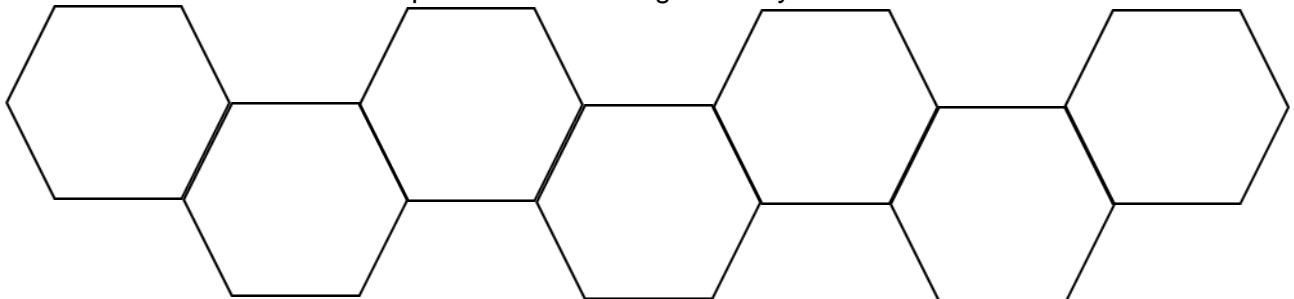


Square



Circle

Use different colors to create a pattern in the hexagon honeycomb below.



Butterfly Wing

What patterns do you see? Trace over them on the picture.



Butterfly wings often have colors and patterns to look like eyes that will deter predators.

Use the patterns you found in the butterfly wing and rearrange them below to create a pattern of your own.