Adult guide

The mitten pattern puzzle

4–7 years · 15 min

Spot a repeating unit and predict the next two shapes.

Getting ready

1 sheet per child. All you need is a pencil.

Step by step

3 min Name the shapes and clap the rhythm in the first row.

7 min Cover the second half of a row. Say the smallest repeating unit, then uncover the rest to test it.

5 min Draw the two missing shapes. Make up a new pattern in the last row.

At home

Build a pattern with spoons and pencils. Change one object while the child looks away. Can they spot it?

In a group

One partner invents a pattern on the empty mittens. The other points out the smallest repeating unit.

Answers and discussion

A: circle, star. B: triangle, triangle. C: star, circle. The child’s own pattern should repeat at least twice.