

# Triangles and quadrilaterals

## WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Any closed shape with three straight sides is a triangle. Any closed shape with four straight sides is a quadrilateral.

- A tall thin shape with three sides is a triangle.
- A wide flat shape with four sides is a quadrilateral.

## MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

### COUNT THE SIDES TO NAME THE SHAPE

- 1 Look at the shape and count each straight side.
- 2 If there are exactly three sides, it is a triangle.
- 3 If there are exactly four sides, it is a quadrilateral.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

**REFLECT** What stays the same about every triangle, even when they look very different?

## ANSWER KEY

- a) 3 sides, All sides equal
- b) 4 sides, All sides equal
- c) 4 sides, Sides not all equal

Q1: 3

Q2: quadrilateral

Q3: any 2 different-looking triangles

a) **Always** — The rule says exactly three sides makes a triangle.

b) **Always** — A square has four straight sides so it is always a quadrilateral.

c) **Never** — Quadrilaterals can be rectangles or other four-sided shapes, not always squares.

d) **Never** — Triangles must have exactly three sides.

## EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

**Investigation:** How many sides can you find? — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.