

Repeating patterns and their rule (shape and colour)

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

A repeating pattern is built from one small part, called the unit, that keeps coming back over and over. Once you spot the unit, you can read the whole pattern and name any shape without drawing them all.

→ In red, blue, red, blue the unit is red, blue (two shapes long).

→ In red, blue, green the unit is three shapes long, so every 3rd shape is green.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

NAME THE 6TH SHAPE

① The repeating unit is **star, moon**. It is **2** shapes long.

② Every 2nd position lands on the last shape of the unit, so positions **2, 4, 6** are all **moon**.

③ Position **6** is one of those, so the 6th shape is **moon**.

DISCUSSION STARTER

REFLECT

Did naming the repeating unit help you find a far-off position without building the whole strip?

ANSWER KEY

a) blue

b) green

c) square

Q1: blue

a) Always — That repeating unit is what makes it a repeating pattern.

b) Always — Blue is the last shape of the 2-shape unit, so every 2nd one is blue.

c) Always — The unit is 3 long, so every 3rd position ends a repeat.

d) Sometimes — It can be 2, 3 or more shapes long depending on the pattern.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: star (the unit is star, moon, moon — 3 long)

S2: yellow (the unit is red, red, yellow — 3 long)

S3: square (the unit is circle, square — 2 long)

S4: green (the unit is green, green, blue, blue — 4 long)

S5: circle (the unit is circle, square — 2 long)

Investigation: What lands on the 100th spot? — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.