

Year 2 Symmetry: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to learning about symmetry can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable steps, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring. Whether your child is just learning to spot matching shapes, or whether they are already aware of symmetry in the real world, there will be a step in this guide for your child.

Within this area of the website you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

Symmetry

What Does the National Curriculum Say about Symmetry for Year 2?

Most children during year 2 will learn how to spot lines of symmetry in common flat shapes. By the end of year 2, they should be aiming to spot the lines of symmetry, even when the shapes are presented in different orientations. Sometimes, children may be asked to complete a shape or drawing by drawing the other half and to complete a line of symmetry.

What Is Reflective Symmetry?

Reflective symmetry is a form of symmetry where one half of a shape matches the other half. The lines of reflective symmetry can be thought of as 'mirror lines'. Children can explore this type of symmetry by placing a thin mirror across the boundary where you expect a shape to perfectly reflect. The mirror should cut the object in half so that the shapes on both halves are equal. Another method is to precisely cut the shape out and try folding it. If you fold exactly down a line of reflective symmetry, the two halves will match exactly when the shape is folded. If you then open the shape back up, put a mirror on the fold and look into the shiny side of the mirror, you should find the shape looks complete.

What Are the Difficulties Infant Children Find When Learning Symmetry?

When children are under seven years of age, they often find controlling their pencil tricky, especially with intricate shapes. Your child's ability to draw symmetrically may be affected by their fine motor skills and pencil control. Just put 'pencil control' into our lovely Twinkl search box on our website to find dozens of colourful activities to help improve your child's accuracy when writing and drawing.

Be a Symmetrical Cinderella

Try spotting symmetry around the home. Why not try to get your child to help tidying by making things symmetrical, such as duvets on beds, patterns and orientations of cushions on sofas or positions of identical ornaments. Great fun for learning about symmetry and they may even develop a lifelong love of tidying up!

Make a Fortune Teller

Make a square piece of paper from an A4 sheet and show your child how to fold a fortune teller. Can your child spot at which stages the shape is symmetrical as you fold it? If you're unsure of how to make a fortune teller, write 'fortune teller' in our lovely Twinkl search bar and you'll find plenty of pre-prepared options with instructions.

Draw the Other Half

Play a family game where each member draws half an object (a face with one eye, half a nose and mouth) and someone else completes each drawing. Who is the most accurate finisher?



Step 1

Symmetry Colouring

Use colouring pens to complete the pattern on the other side of each symmetry line. There are several techniques your child can use so see which one suits them best. Some children like to count outwards from the mirror line to the shape and then repeat the same on the side they need to draw on. Others prefer to fold the sheet and identify the squares that match. Others prefer to put a plastic mirror on the 'mirror line' and colour in so it matches the mirror image.



Candy Reflection Game

This handy game reinforces the use of the mirror technique that your child may have practised in the Step 1 activity in this guide. All you need is a small plastic mirror and all the instructions are included in the download.

Step 2



Step 3

Drawing Lines of Symmetry

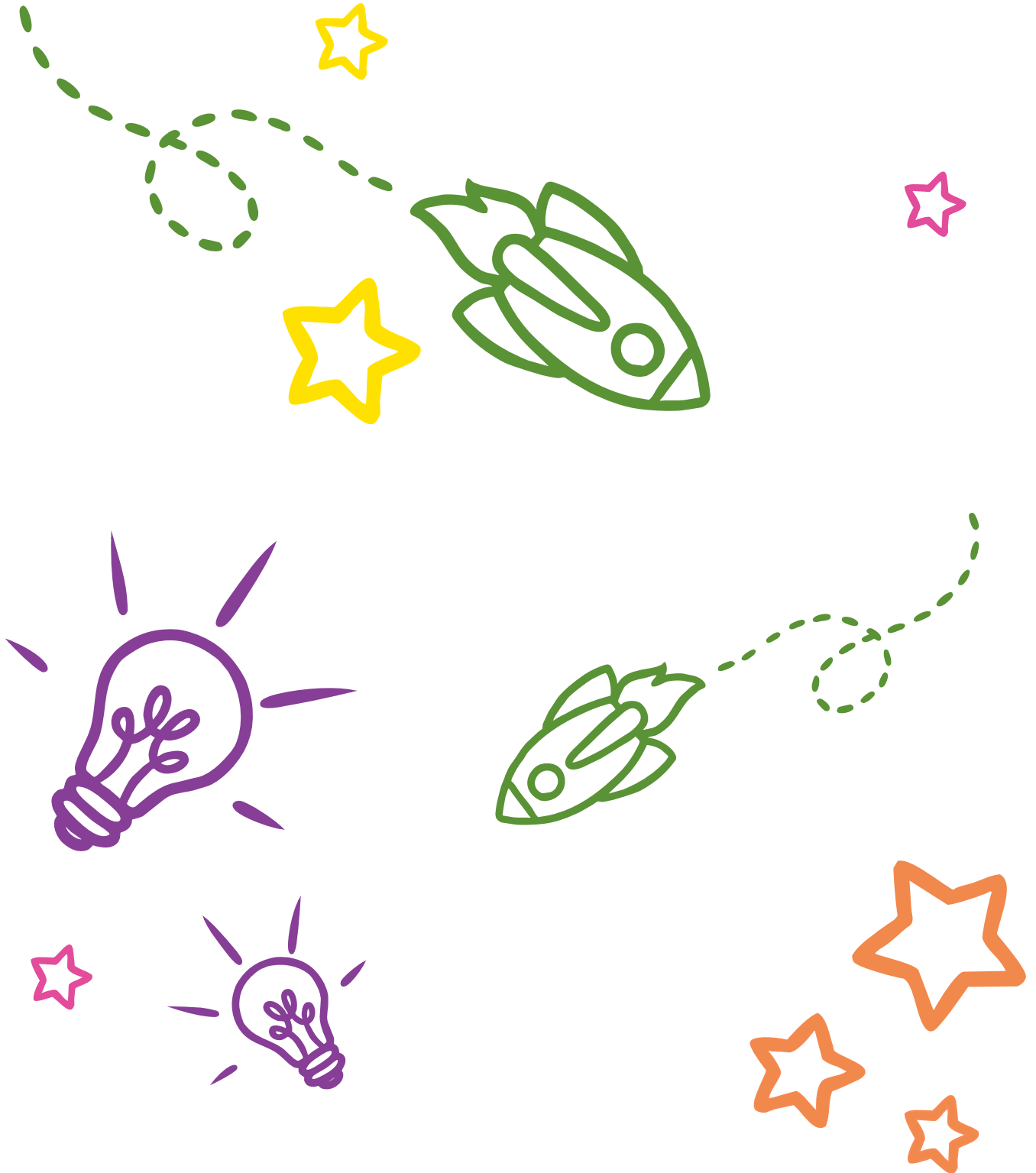
There are two activity sheets in this helpful pack. The first shows a number of traditional and non-traditional shapes and the second is an accurate answer sheet. If you need to discuss how to draw lines of symmetry with your child, why not download this colourful **A4 Symmetry Poster**.



Step 4

Symmetry Activity Pack

This is a great pack for consolidating the ideas your child has developed in Step 1, 2 and 3 of this guide and developing it further. The dotted sheets will help to extend your child's ability to 'draw the other half' of a shape to make it show reflective symmetry. If they find this too tricky, there are plenty of themed drawing sheets to finish. Once these are mastered, there are some puzzle style activity cards to challenge your child and equip them with the confidence needed for junior school symmetry work.



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Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!