

Line Symmetry

Chapter 9: Symmetry · Topic 1

Key Concept

A square has 4 lines of symmetry (two through opposite corners, two through the midpoints of opposite sides), a rectangle has only 2 lines of symmetry (through the midpoints of opposite sides, but not through corners since the sides are unequal), an equilateral triangle has 3 lines of symmetry, and a circle has infinite lines of symmetry through its centre, since any diameter divides it into two identical halves. Recognising line symmetry is useful in art, design, architecture, and even in identifying letters and shapes in everyday life.

Quick Revision Notes

- Line symmetry: a shape can be folded along a line so both halves match exactly.
- A square has 4 lines of symmetry; a rectangle has 2.
- An equilateral triangle has 3 lines of symmetry; a circle has infinite lines of symmetry.
- Line symmetry appears in art, design, architecture, and everyday shapes/letters.

Practice Questions

- 1 Draw the lines of symmetry for a rectangle.
- 2 Identify the number of lines of symmetry in an equilateral triangle.
- 3 Find and draw one capital letter of the alphabet that has line symmetry.