

Pattern Block Man

Teacher Notes for Activity 1: Introducing Similarity: Pattern Block Man

Distribute pattern blocks and have students work in pairs. Provide each team with a copy of the pattern block man. [See Appendix] Assign teams the following task:

Use pattern blocks to cover the pattern block man, then use pattern blocks to construct an enlargement of this figure so that the ratio of similarity is 2:1. The

enlargement must have the same shape as the original and be twice as tall and twice as wide.

Using the edge of a pattern block as 1 unit, compare the perimeters of the smaller and larger figures.

Compare the number of blocks used to construct the smaller figure with the number used to construct the larger one.

In general, if two shapes are similar, how does the ratio of the perimeters compare with the ratio of corresponding sides? How does the ratio of the areas compare to the ratio of corresponding sides?

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