

Mrs Trimmer's String

Mrs Trimmer took all twenty-four of the children in the class out into the playground. She also took some long loops of string.

Mrs Trimmer held up one of the string loops.

"How many of you will we need to make a triangle?" she asked.

She chose three children.

They held the string taut and so made a beautiful triangle.

Then others made triangles, squares, rectangles, pentagons and hexagons. Some made regular polygons and others made more irregular shapes.

Six of the class made a shape. Nick pointed at it.

"That's nearly a triangle!" he laughed. Mrs Trimmer came up.

"It's still a hexagon," she explained,

"It's got six sides and six people holding the corners."

After a while Mrs Trimmer called all the twenty-four children together.

"Now we are all going to make triangles," she said, "So get into threes."

They made lots of different ones.

How many triangles did they make altogether?

Then the children made four-sided shapes.

What different shapes could they have made?

Can you draw some of them?

How many four-sided shapes did the class make altogether?

Then the children made hexagons and then octagons.

How many hexagons and how many octagons could the class make?

"We haven't made pentagons yet, Mrs Trimmer," complained Nick.

How do you think they managed to make five good pentagons?