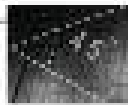


What's Your Angle?

Cross-Curricular Focus: Mathematics



Did you know that an **angle** is part of a circle? A circle is divided up into 360 tiny little slices, called degrees. The word "degrees" can also be replaced by this mathematical symbol: $^{\circ}$. It is usually written after the number in a measurement, such as 360° . When you measure an angle, you are counting how many of the circle's 360° fit in the space between the two arms of the angle.

A straight angle forms when the two arms of the angle lay flat in a straight line. A straight angle measures 180° . A **right** angle forms a perfectly square corner, as in a rectangle. A right angle measures exactly 90° . An angle with less than 90° is called an **acute** angle. An angle that has more than 90° is called an **obtuse** angle.

It is possible to estimate the size of an angle just by looking at it, but sometimes other tools are necessary. With a right angle, a special symbol lets you know quickly that it measures exactly 90° . The special symbol is a small square inside the angle. For other angles, you may want to use either a protractor or an angle ruler. Both have markings that show the degrees of a circle. You can line them up with the arms of the angle you want to measure. It will tell how much of the circle fits between the two arms of the angle.

Name _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) Why do we measure angles in degrees?

2) Which kind of angle has a special symbol that helps you know its measurement?

3) What tools can help you find out the precise measurement of an angle?

4) What is another name for a straight angle?

5) Which is larger, an acute angle or an obtuse angle?
