

Concept Circles

Description

- A Concept Circle is a visual organizer, similar to Frayer Model, which helps students understand key words and concepts.
- A Concept Circle is divided into four or more equal sections to hold words or symbols that are connected by a common relationship.

Purpose

- ✓ The Concept Circles are used to identify unfamiliar concepts and vocabulary.
- ✓ They create a visual reference for concepts and vocabulary. Through a visual representation, students see clearly how the concepts are related.
- ✓ It can be used effectively in all subject areas, from Mathematics and Biology to Language and Geography.
- ✓ In Mathematics, this strategy can be used with success in all strands: Number Sense and Numeration, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Measurement and Patterning and Algebra.
- ✓ The beauty of this strategy is that involves active participation and also individual accountability. When students are actively engaged, they share ideas, solutions, are stimulated and have fun, consequently they feel successful.

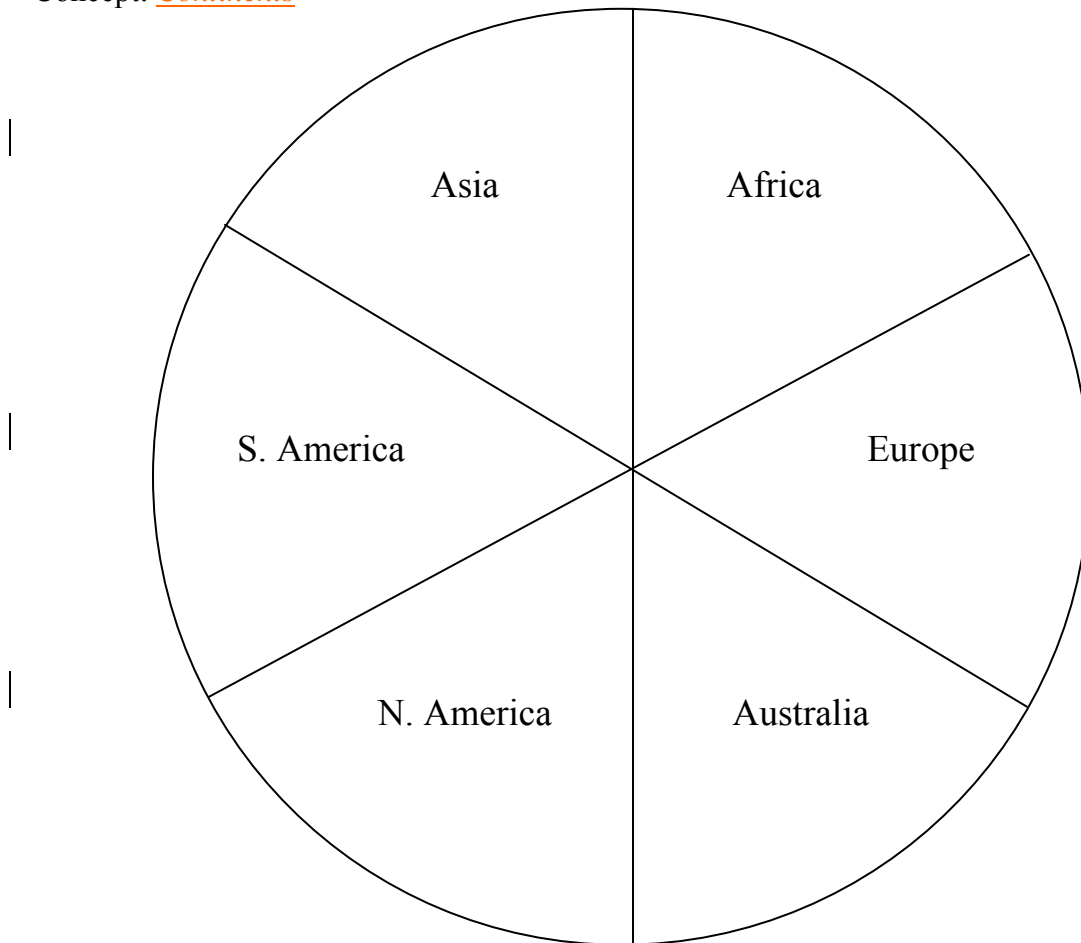
“No matter how well planned, how interesting, stimulating, colourful or relevant is the lesson, if the teacher does all the interacting with the material, the teacher’s not the student’s brain will grow new connections”.

Tips

- Develop vocabulary/ concept organizers in class, during a group activity.
- Be cognizant of math words that have different meanings in a non-mathematical context, for example; root, mean, rational, radical, similar, odd, etc.
- Build on prior knowledge, so that students can move to the next levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy, Comprehension, Analysis, and Synthesis.
- Strategically place the development of the organizer within the framework of the lesson/unit plan. For example, the day before beginning a geometry unit, assign a homework activity that asks students to find pictures of hexagons, polygons, and obtuse angles from a printed media. Use the pictures they found to develop an organizer, as a “Minds On” activity.

- Use organizers for developing understanding of symbols, like \leq , Δ , \neq , \approx , etc.
- When develop organizers, allow students to use words, pictures, or symbols, in order to make connections, and reinforce the knowledge.
- Help students to understand how to read a concept circle, by using a non-mathematical example, like Concept: Continents - Asia, Europe, Africa, etc.

Concept: Continents



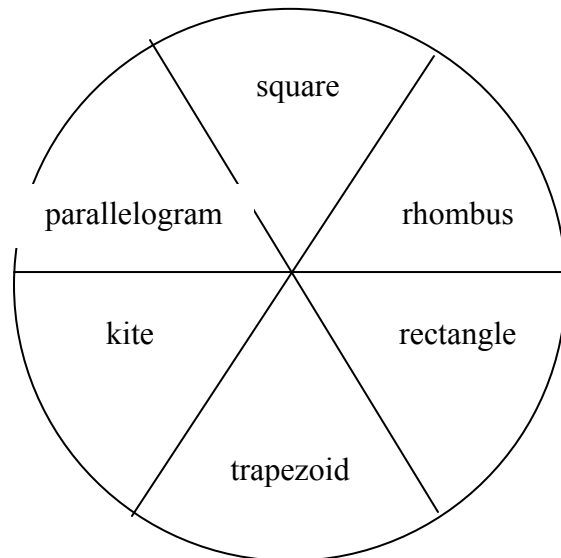
Sample Activities

Activity 1

You can use this activity for your Geometry lesson on Quadrilaterals.

- Choose an Oral Communication strategy, such as Think/Pair/Share, then direct students to determine the relationship between the words in the concept circle.
- Engage students in a whole class discussion to reach a consensus about the relationship among the words.
- It can be used though differently, using the concept, Quadrilaterals, and letting students to find the words, for Consolidation.
- Discuss with students the non-examples, words that are connected to the concept, but don't belong in the circle.
- Ask students to use drawings, if they prefer.
- Students can keep the organizer for future reference.

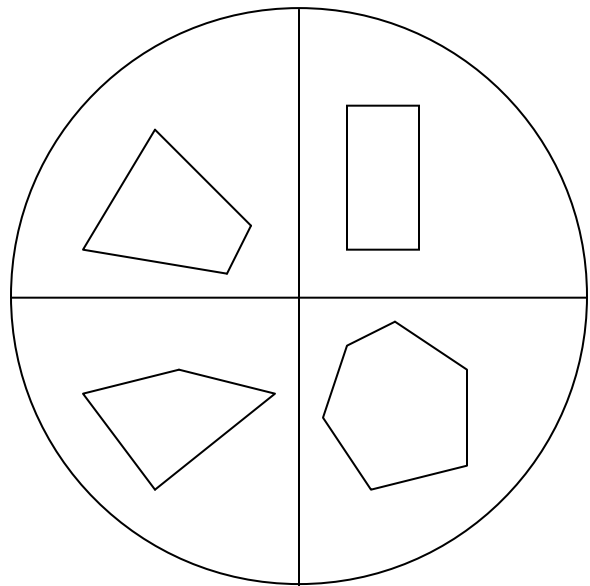
Concept Quadrilaterals



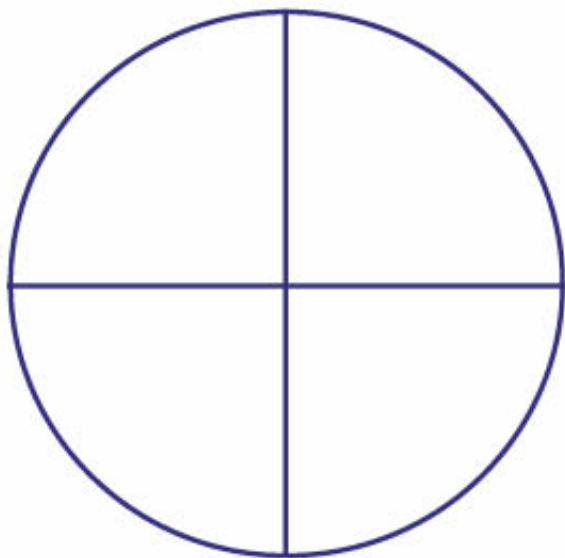
Activity 2

- Divide the circle in four equal parts and draw a polygon in each of the four sections.
- Direct students to work with a partner and identify the concept.
- Ask them what shapes are there in the circle, what do they have in common.
- Engage students in a whole class discussion.
- This activity can be used as “Minds On” preferably, but also as Consolidation.

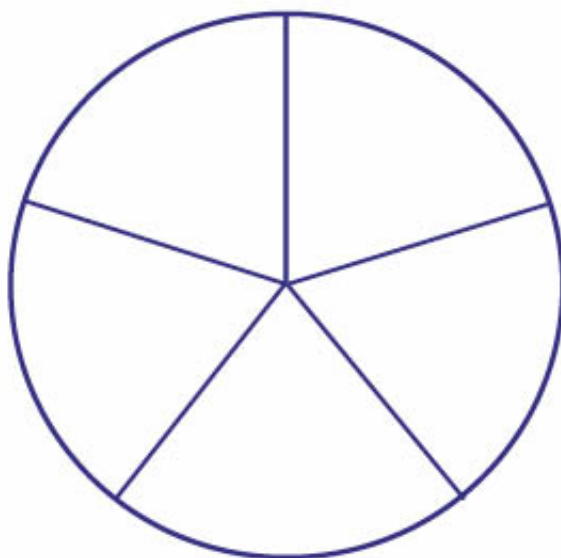
Concept Polygons



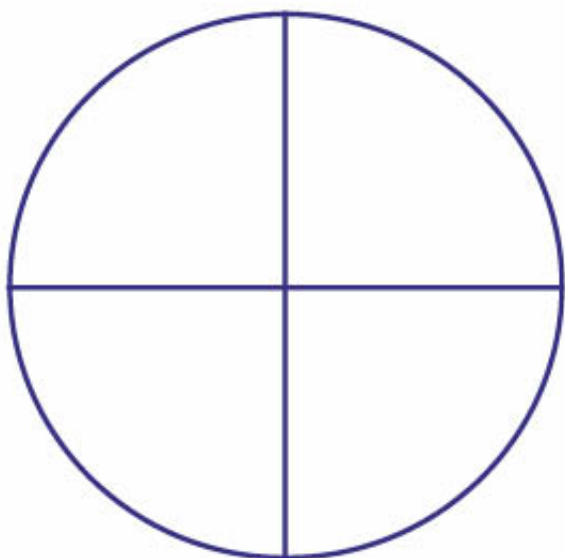
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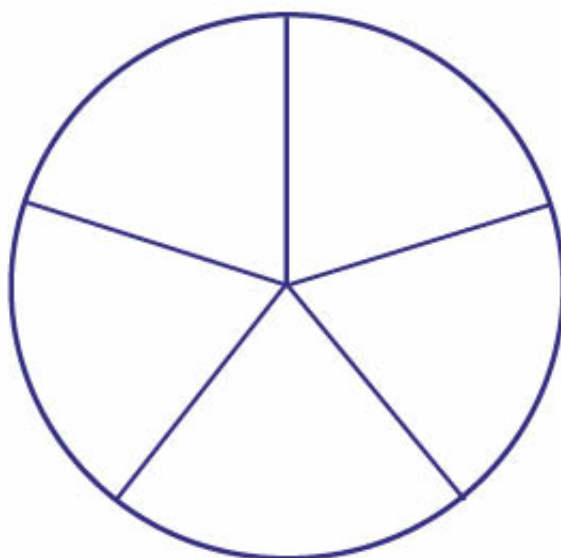
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