

Recursive Toothpick Patterns

Part 1:

Consider this pattern of triangles.



| | number of toothpicks | perimeter |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|
| Fig. 1 | | |
| Fig. 2 | | |
| Fig. 3 | | |
| Fig. 4 | | |
| Fig. 5 | | |
| Fig. 6 | | |

- 1.) Fill in the table for the number of toothpicks
It takes to make each figure, 1, 2, and 3.
- 2.) Fill in the table for the number of toothpicks that
Make the perimeter for each figure, 1, 2, and 3.
- 3.) Write a **recursive formula** to generate the sequence for the number of toothpicks needed to make each figure.
- 4.) Use your formula to complete the table
- 5.) Write a **recursive formula** to generate the sequence for the number of toothpicks that make the perimeter for each figure.
- 6.) Write an **explicit formula** to find the number of toothpicks needed to make the n th figure.
- 7.) Use your formula to find the number of toothpicks needed to make the 10th and 25th figures
- 8.) Write an **explicit formula** to find the number of toothpicks that make the perimeter of the n th figure.
- 9.) Use your formula to find the number of toothpicks needed for the perimeters of the 10th and 25th figures.

Part 2:

The following table is for a design that is a row of squares, instead of triangles created by toothpicks.

| | number of toothpicks | perimeter | area |
|--------|----------------------|-----------|------|
| Fig. 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| Fig. 2 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| Fig. 3 | 10 | 8 | 3 |
| Fig. 4 | | | |
| Fig. 5 | | | |
| Fig. 6 | | | |

10.) Write a **recursive formula** for each of the following:

a.) number of toothpicks in a square figure

b.) perimeter

c.) area

11.) Write an **explicit formula** to find the n^{th} value in each sequence for the following:

a.) number of toothpicks in a square figure

b.) perimeter

c.) area

12.) Use your explicit formula to find the 10^{th} and 25^{th} value for:

a.) number of toothpicks in a square figure

10^{th} : _____

25^{th} : _____

b.) perimeter

10^{th} : _____

25^{th} : _____

Part 3:

1.) Find the missing values in each sequence and then write both a recursive formula to generate the sequence and an explicit formula to find any term in the sequence.

a. 7, 12, 17, ____, 27, ____, ____, 42, ____, 52

Recursive formula _____

Explicit formula _____

b. 5, 1, -3, ____, -11, -15, ____, ____, -27, ____

Recursive formula _____

Explicit formula _____

c. -7, ____, -29, ____, -51, -62, ____, -84, ____

Recursive formula _____

Explicit formula _____