PATTERN = SYMMETRY

Repeating a shape, design, or pattern is called **symmetry**. Let's explore some different types.

flip
(reflection)

slide
(translation)

slide+flip
(glide reflection)

turn
(rotation)

You can combine flips, slides, and turns to create more complex patterns. Try filling the grid with a shape.

DISRUPTING SYMMETRY

Sometimes variety can be more interesting than perfection!

Using color and turning shapes are two ways to break the symmetry in your pattern

MAKE IT REAL

Choose your materials and tools to create beautiful patterns of your unique design.

DEEPER DIVE ONLINE

beautifulsymmetry.onl

ABOUT THIS ZINE

This zine was written and created by the MIT Public Library Innovation Exchange (PLIX) and MIT Media Lab Alex Berke. Check out her book at The MIT Press!

Learn more at **plix.mit.edu**

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Beautiful Symmetry Activity Guide

Share your experience running this activity on Twitter or Instagram and tag us **@heyplix**

PLIX

BEAUTIFUL SYMMETRY

PATTERNS AROUND YOU

Look at the infinite, beautiful world around you... what patterns do you notice?

Many patterns in nature and the built world look complex but they are actually made up of a basic shape used over and over.

Sometimes the shape is rotated around a point, sometimes mirrored, sometimes spread out in a repeating pattern.