

TRIANGLES¹

By Gary Clendenen

A triangle has three sides made up of straight lines. However, as you can see not all triangles look alike.



Oops, the last two at the right aren't triangles are they? Can you turn the last one at the right into a triangle by drawing one, short straight line?

Can you turn the next to last one (the rectangle) into two triangles by drawing one straight line?

The pyramid of Giza in Egypt is shown below, from the side and from space. It was built about 3500 years ago. It took over one hundred thousand workers 10 to 20 years to build the pyramid using roughly 2,300,000 stone blocks. It was the tallest structure in the world for more than 3000 years. Over the centuries, pollution and weather have turned its stone surface rough which is called weathering.



photo from the side



photo from space

Is the pyramid of Giza a triangle?

Can you see triangular shapes in the pyramid? How many triangles are there on the surface of the pyramid?

What is the difference between a pyramid and a triangle?

What is the shape of the base (the bottom) of the pyramid of Giza?

What is the shape of the very top of the pyramid of Giza?

¹ Suggested Grades: 4 – 6 Skills: Triangles, pyramids, creating your own pyramid using 3 triangles

Cut the following triangles out using scissors and build a pyramid by taping the pieces together.



What is the shape of the base of your pyramid?

What is the shape of the top of your pyramid?