

Balance: Symmetrical vs. Asymmetrical

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to create and distinguish between symmetrically and asymmetrically balanced compositions.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Construction paper or plain paper in 2-3 colors
- scissors
- glue stick
- a full sheet of paper as a background
- ruler
- pencil

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Cut out 10-12 simple paper shapes (circles, squares, triangles) in various sizes from your colored paper.
2. Using your ruler, lightly draw a vertical line down the center of your background paper.
3. Arrange and glue your shapes to create a SYMMETRICALLY balanced design, mirroring the same shapes/colors on both sides of the center line.
4. On a second background sheet, arrange and glue the same or new shapes to create an ASYMMETRICALLY balanced design — different shapes on each side that still feel visually 'even' in weight.
5. Label each finished piece 'Symmetrical' or 'Asymmetrical' and write one sentence under each explaining how you achieved balance.

QUESTIONS

1. How did you achieve balance in your symmetrical design?

2. How did you achieve balance in your asymmetrical design, even though the two sides aren't identical?

3. Which design took more thought and planning to create, and why?

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- 4. Where might you see symmetrical balance used intentionally in real life or architecture? Give one example.**
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