GOAL Identify line and rotational symmetries of a figure.

Vocabulary

Line symmetry occurs in a figure in a plane if the figure can be mapped onto itself by a reflection in a line.

The **line of symmetry** is the line of reflection that maps a figure onto itself.

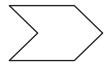
Rotational symmetry occurs in a figure in a plane if the figure can be mapped onto itself by a rotation of 180° or less about the center of the figure.

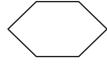
The **center of symmetry** is the center of a figure with rotational symmetry.

Identify lines of symmetry EXAMPLE 1

How many lines of symmetry does the hexagon have?

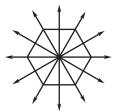


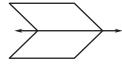


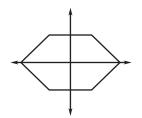


Solution

- **a.** Six lines of symmetry **b.** One line of symmetry
- **c.** Two lines of symmetry







Copyright © by McDougal Littell, a division of Houghton Mifflin Company.

Exercises for Example 1

How many lines of symmetry does the object appear to have?

1.







LESSON 9.6

Study Guide continued For use with pages 619–624

EXAMPLE 2

Identify rotational symmetry

Does the figure have rotational symmetry? If so, *describe* any rotations that map the figure onto itself.

a. Regular hexagon



b. Equilateral Triangle **c.** Trapezoid



Solution

- **a.** The regular hexagon has rotational symmetry. The center is the intersection of the diagonals. Rotations of 60°, 120°, or 180° about the center all map the hexagon onto itself.
- **b.** The equilateral triangle has rotational symmetry. The center is the intersection of the diagonals. Rotations of 120° about the center map the equilateral triangle onto itself.
- **c.** The trapezoid does not have rotational symmetry because no rotation of 180° or less maps the trapezoid onto itself.

Exercises for Example 2

Does the figure have rotational symmetry? If so, *describe* any rotations that map the figure onto itself.

4. Regular octagon



5. Right triangle



6. Parallelogram

