Understanding Similar Figures in Geometry

Today's Standard

8.G.A4 - Understand that a two-dimensional figure is similar to another if the second can be obtained from the first by a sequence of rotations, reflections, translations, and dilations; given two similar two-dimensional figures, describe a sequence that exhibits the similarity between them.

Real-World Applications for this Standard

Designing similar patterns in art; Scaling down blueprints for architecture; Creating animations in graphic design; Mapping out similar regions in geography; Comparing similar shapes in nature

Today I Learned

Today, we learned about similar shapes in math. Two shapes are similar if you can make one shape look like the other by flipping, turning, sliding, or resizing it.

Common Stumbling Blocks

Some kids think similar shapes have to be the same size. But they just need to look the same. Also, some kids think resizing changes the shape, but it only changes the size.

Quiz Me

- What does it mean if two shapes are similar?

- Can similar shapes be different sizes?

- What happens when you flip a shape?

- Does resizing a shape change its look?

- Why is it important to know about similar shapes?

Help Me

Similar shapes are everywhere! For example, when you see a small toy car and a big real car, they look the same but are different sizes. This helps us understand how things can look the same even if they are bigger or smaller.