

## 6.5 Symmetries of Quadrilaterals

### *A Develop Understanding Task*

A line that reflects a figure onto itself is called a **line of symmetry**. A figure that can be carried onto itself by a rotation is said to have **rotational symmetry**.



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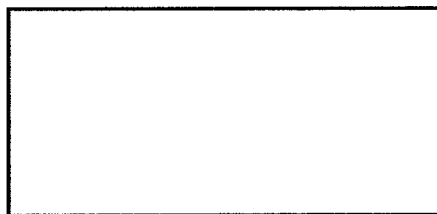
Every four-sided polygon is a **quadrilateral**. Some quadrilaterals have additional properties and are given special names like squares, parallelograms and rhombuses. A **diagonal** of a quadrilateral is formed when opposite vertices are connected by a line segment. In this task you will use rigid-motion transformations to explore line symmetry and rotational symmetry in various types of quadrilaterals.

1. A **rectangle** is a quadrilateral that contains four right angles. Is it possible to reflect or rotate a rectangle onto itself?

For the rectangle shown below, find

- any lines of reflection, or
- any centers and angles of rotation

that will carry the rectangle onto itself.



Describe the rotations and/or reflections that carry a rectangle onto itself. (Be as specific as possible in your descriptions.)

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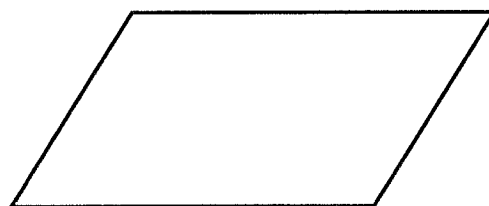
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2. A **parallelogram** is a quadrilateral in which opposite sides are parallel. Is it possible to reflect or rotate a parallelogram onto itself?

For the parallelogram shown below, find

- any lines of reflection, or
- any centers and angles of rotation

that will carry the parallelogram onto itself.



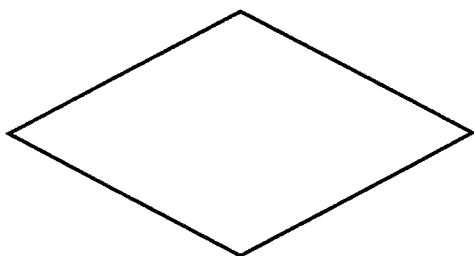
Describe the rotations and/or reflections that carry a parallelogram onto itself. (Be as specific as possible in your descriptions.)

3. A **rhombus** is a quadrilateral in which all sides are congruent. Is it possible to reflect or rotate a rhombus onto itself?

For the rhombus shown below, find

- any lines of reflection, or
- any centers and angles of rotation

that will carry the rhombus onto itself.



Describe the rotations and/or reflections that carry a rhombus onto itself. (Be as specific as possible in your descriptions.)

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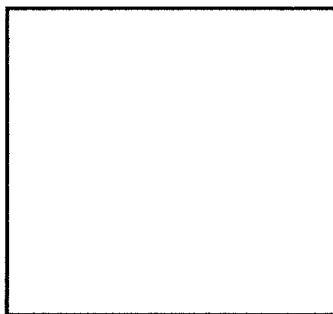
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4. A **square** is both a rectangle and a rhombus. Is it possible to reflect or rotate a square onto itself?

For the square shown below, find

- any lines of reflection, or
- any centers and angles of rotation

that will carry the square onto itself.



Describe the rotations and/or reflections that carry a square onto itself. (Be as specific as possible in your descriptions.)

5. A **trapezoid** is a quadrilateral with one pair of opposite sides parallel. Is it possible to reflect or rotate a trapezoid onto itself?

Draw a trapezoid based on this definition. Then see if you can find

- any lines of symmetry, or
- any centers of rotational symmetry

that will carry the trapezoid you drew onto itself.

If you were unable to find a line of symmetry or a center of rotational symmetry for your trapezoid, see if you can sketch a different trapezoid that might possess some type of symmetry.

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