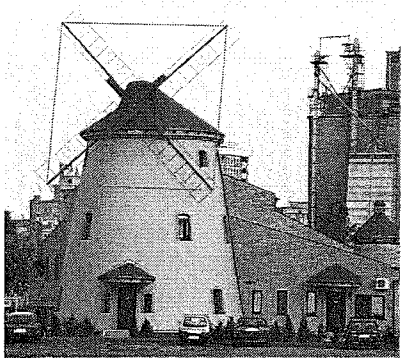
6.6 Symmetries of Regular Polygons

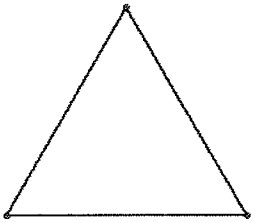
A Solidify Understanding Task



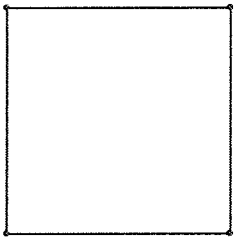
A line that reflects a figure onto itself is called a **line of symmetry**. A figure that can be carried onto itself by a rotation is said to have **rotational symmetry**. A **diagonal of a polygon** is any line segment that connects non-consecutive vertices of the polygon.

For each of the following regular polygons, describe the rotations and reflections that carry it onto itself: (be as specific as possible in your descriptions, such as specifying the angle of rotation)

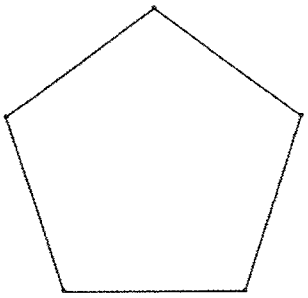
1. An equilateral triangle



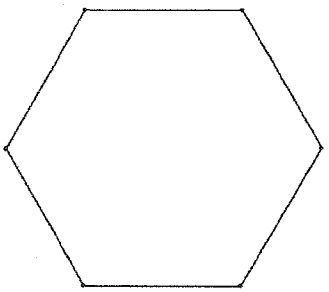
2. A square



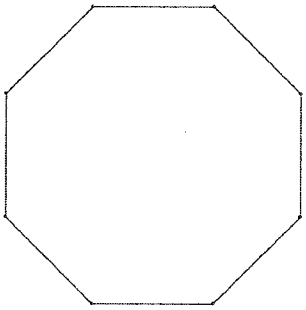
3. A regular pentagon



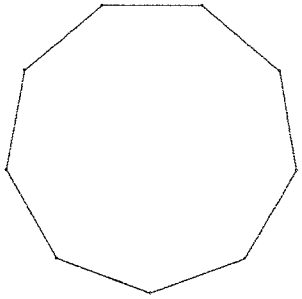
4. A regular hexagon



5. A regular octagon



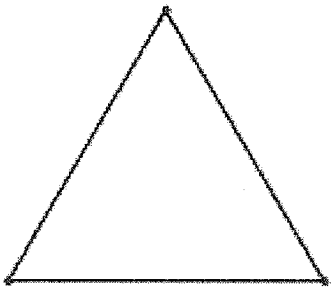
6. A regular nonagon



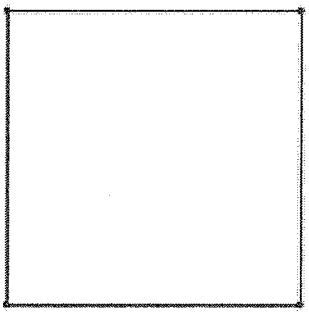
What patterns do you notice in terms of the number and characteristics of the lines of symmetry in a regular polygon?

What patterns do you notice in terms of the angles of rotation when describing the rotational symmetry in a regular polygon?

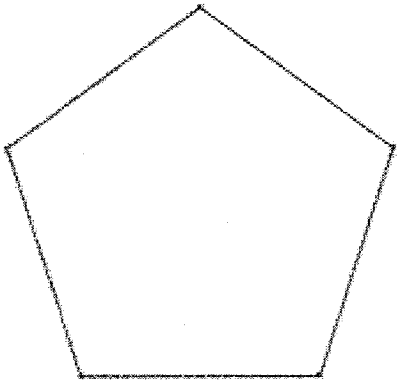
1. An equilateral triangle



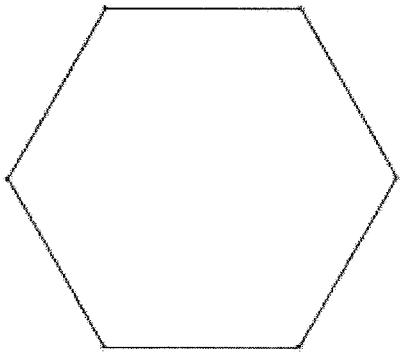
2. A square



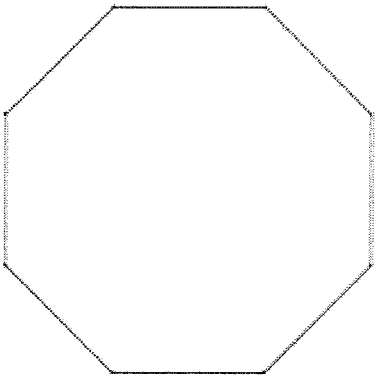
3. A regular pentagon



4. A regular hexagon



5. A regular octagon



6. A regular nonagon