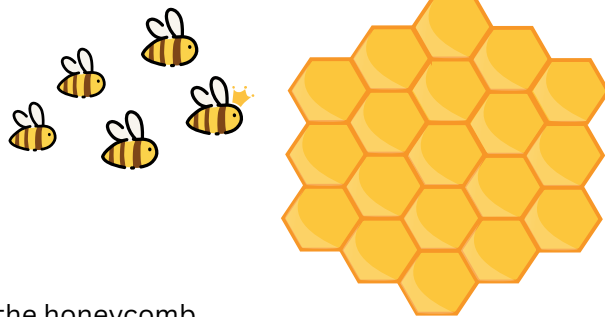


Build Your Own Honeycomb

Concept: Hexagons fit together without gaps — just like in real beehives, turtle shells, wasp nests, and even some crystals. Hexagons are nature’s favorite “efficient” shape.

Materials

- Paper or cardstock
- Pencil
- Ruler (to measure equal sides)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Optional: yellow crayons or markers to color the honeycomb



Steps

1. Draw your hexagons.
 - Use the ruler to draw several identical hexagons on paper.
 - Each side should be the same length — 1" to 2" works well.
 - You can also trace one perfect hexagon and reuse it as a template.
2. Cut them out carefully.
 - Try to keep the edges straight and the corners sharp.
 - The cleaner the cut, the tighter your honeycomb will fit.
3. Start building the honeycomb.
 - Lay three hexagons on a table and slide them together so their sides touch.
 - Notice how no gaps appear between them — that’s the magic of hexagons.
4. Add more hexagons.
 - Keep adding hexagons around the first group:
One on the top-One on each side-One below
Build outward in rings, just like bees do
5. Glue them down.
 - Once your honeycomb looks the way you want, gently glue or tape the shapes in place.
 - You can make a small honeycomb patch or an entire honeycomb “sheet.”
6. Optional: Add color.
 - Color the cells in soft shades of yellow, gold, or brown —
 - or turn each hexagon into a tiny picture (flowers, bees, patterns, etc.).
7. Talk about the pattern.

Ask kids:

Why do you think bees use hexagons? Why not circles or squares?

This leads naturally to ideas about strength, storage, and efficiency — all part of “Patterns by Design.”