The Many Facets of Symmetry

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Mirrors

 Two 6 inch by 12 mirrors at an angle of 180/n embody the dihedral group D_n.



Mirrors (Cont.)

• Parallel mirrors give infinite dihedral group.



• Three mirrors can give glide reflections.



Frieze Patterns

- Have students find all the different types of frieze patterns given examples of 2 of them.
- Ex. T T T T
- Ex. L L L L

Flow Charts



Subgroup Lattice



Two Color Frieze Patterns

 Ex. Λ V Λ V Λ V Λ V has only vertical mirrors and translations preserving colors. But 180 rotations and glide reflections can switch colors. pmg2/pm11 or TVRG/TV

Subgroup Lattice



- Color preserving group must be subgroup of entire group (switching and preserving).
- Students can list all 22 possible pairs and hunt for the 17 possible ones.

Wallpaper Patterns

- Mirrors for kaleidoscopes
- flowcharts, two-color.
- Brick patterns (built from 2x1 rectangles)

Weaving Patterns



Weaving Patterns (II)



Polyhedra

• Counting and analyzing symmetries











