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# BC Reggio-Inspired Mathematics Project

## January 2021 Newsletter

**Welcome to the first of our monthly newsletters, new  
for 2021!**

(for best viewing of images, open in your browser)

As we continue to nurture and grow this professional inquiry project, we welcome educators from across the world to join in our dialogue, our proposals and our collaboration.



[link to our blog](#)

In each newsletter, we intend to share an encounter with mathematics, introduce you to educators in our project and share recommended resources. We would love your suggestions as to what this newsletter can offer you.

## Encounters with Number

January brings a new year - 2021! Invite students to investigate the number 2021 in different ways through the following questions:

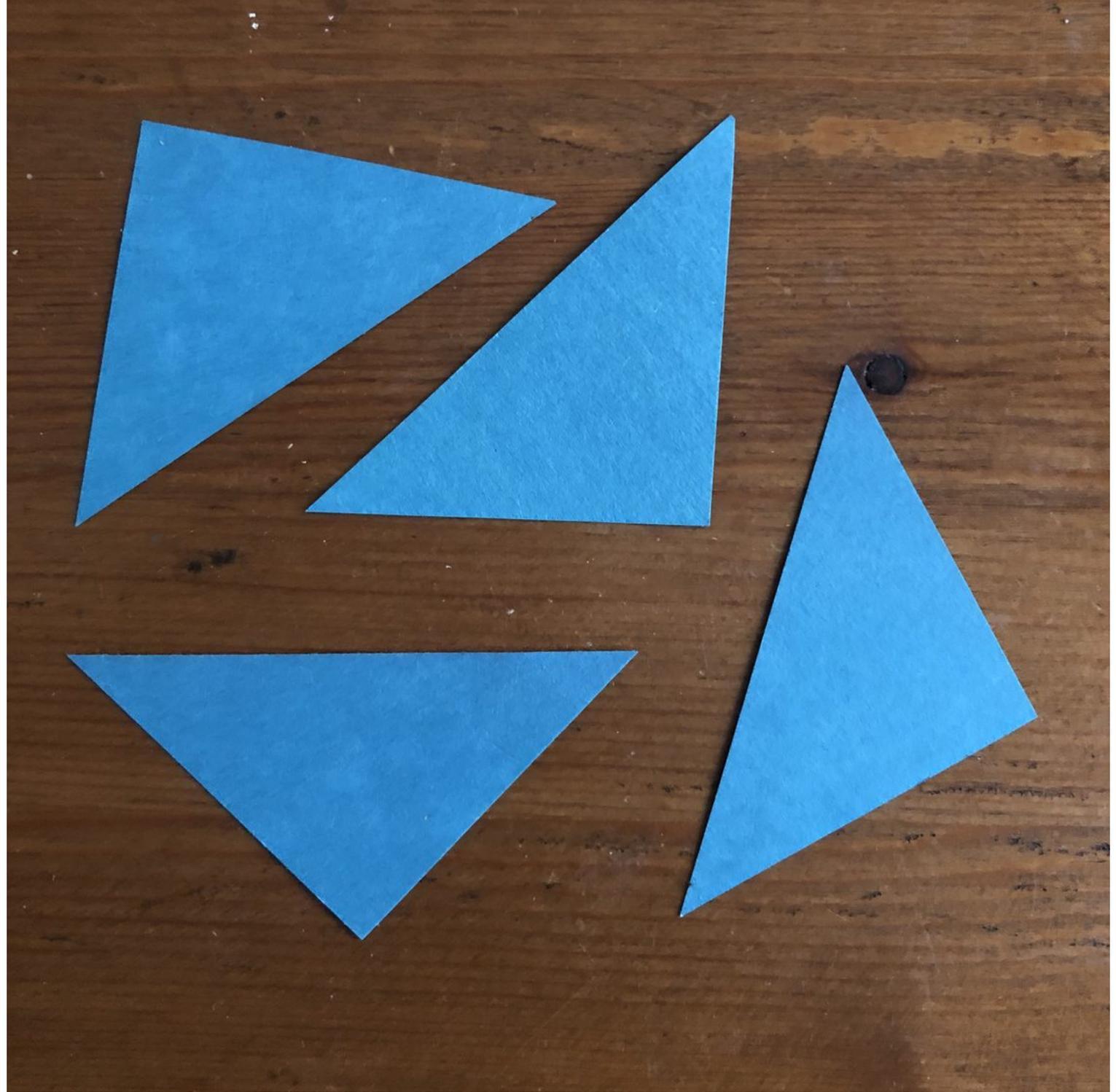
- *What ways can you compose or decompose 21 or 2021?*
- *What materials help you to think about how much 21 or 2021 is?*
- *What different ways can you represent 21 or 2021*
- *Where in your home or at school can you find about 21 or 2021 of something?*
- *What questions do you have about numbers?*

Assessment questions to consider: *Do students build on what they understand about benchmark numbers? Do they demonstrate understanding of place value and operations? What do you notice about how flexible and fluent your students are with composing and decomposing quantities? What connections are your students making that might inspire further investigation and inquiry?*



# Spatial Reasoning Spark

This month on Twitter, the spatial reasoning “spark” we share is for students to use four congruent right-angle triangles to compose new shapes. Students can first decompose a square by folding it twice diagonally and cutting along the fold lines to create the four triangles. How might students move, turn and flip the triangles to compose new shapes? How might they describe those shapes? Spatial reasoning is an essential area of mathematics that is embedded in the big ideas and curricular content and competencies in our BC mathematics curriculum.



## Educator Profile

This month we feature Lauren MacLean. Lauren is one of the original teachers in this project, beginning in 2013 when she was a K&1 teacher in the Richmond School District. She is currently on maternity leave from the Coquitlam School District where she is a math mentor and outdoor learning support teacher. She blogs and shares her nature videos [HERE](#).



Lauren's thoughts on the impact of our professional collaborative inquiry project: *When this group first started, I was looking for support, guidance and inspiration to step away from a linear and step-by-step method of teaching math. The exchange of questions and ideas from new colleagues opened up an entirely new, creative and imaginative world of learning for me. Over the years of being a part of this group I have become more confident in following student inquiries and exploring provocations to invite open-ended investigations.*

## Recommended Resources

This month's resource recommendation is Taking Shape: Activities to Develop Geometric and Spatial Thinking by Joan Moss, Catherine D. Bruce, Bev Caswell, Tara Flynn, and Zachary Hawes. This Canadian resource draws upon research done in Canadian classrooms around how young children develop spatial reasoning and understanding. It is full of spatial reasoning tasks and instructional ideas. More information is available [here](#).

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