

Name _____

Date _____

All About Circles



Reading/discussion

You learned all about squares, rectangles and circles in kindergarten, so maybe you think you know all there is to know about these shapes. Well, let's take a closer look at the circle and see if we can learn a little more about it.

To start with, did you know that one of the definitions of a circle is **a closed curve in a plane**? A plane just means a flat surface. The plane itself is not part of the circle. So, for example, it is wrong to call a dinner plate a circle. The dinner plate is a disc, the outer edge of the plate is a circle. The distance around the circle is called its **circumference**.

A line drawn from the centre of the circle to the curve is called the **radius**. The plural of radius is **radii**. No matter how many radii you draw in the same circle they will all measure the same distance. If two circles have radii which are the same length they are called **congruent** circles. Congruent is just a big word meaning matching or similar.

A line drawn from one side of the circle to the other, passing through the centre is called the **diameter**. So the diameter of a circle will be twice the length of the radius. If the line doesn't pass through the center but starts and ends on the circle, that is, if both of its **endpoints** are on the circle, it is called a **chord**.

A section of the circle is called an **arc** and if the arc is one half of the circle we call it a **semi-circle**.

Now you know the circle a little better, perhaps you'd like to draw a few to practice on – to do this you will need to use a **compass**, like the one drawn at the top of this page.

Name _____

Date _____

All About Circles Questions

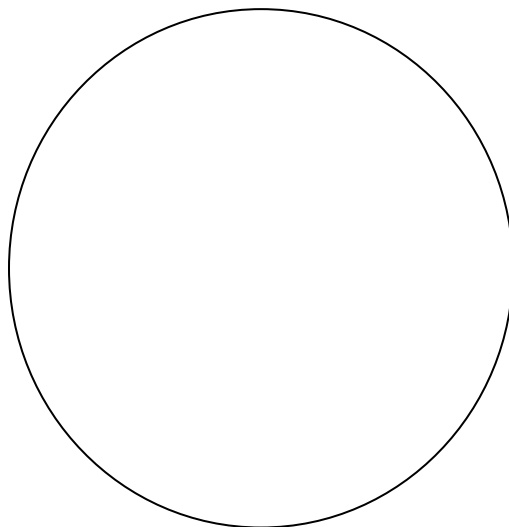
A. What do you know about the circle?

Can you fill in the missing words in the sentences, without looking at the reading?

1. A circle is a closed in a
2. The distance around the circle is called its
3. The line from the centre of the circle to the curve is called the
4. Two circles which have radii which are the same length are called circles.
5. A line drawn from one side of the circle, through the centre to the other side is called the
6. A line which has both of its endpoints on the circle is called a
7. A section of the circle is called an
8. One half of the circle is called a

B. Name the sections of the circle.

Now draw all the sections listed in the table onto the circle, using different colors, and then draw lines from the table to the circle to show which is which.



arc
radius
semi-circle
diameter
chord

All About Circles Answers

Activity A.

1. A circle is a closed **curve** in a **plane**.
2. The distance around the circle is called its **circumference**.
3. The line from the centre of the circle to the curve is called the **radius**.
4. Two circles which have radii which are the same length are called **congruent** circles.
5. A line drawn from one side of the circle, through the centre to the other side is called the **diameter**.
6. A line which has both of its endpoints on the circle is called a **chord**.
7. A section of the circle is called an **arc**.
8. One half of the circle is called a **semi-circle**.

Activity B.

