The following pages contain example activities from the book.
50 Quick & Easy Reading & Writing Computer Activities

Another blockbuster in the 50 Quick & Easy series by Tammy Worcester! Designed to equip teachers with an array of technology tools that can promote the development of reading, writing, and critical thinking. Using these tools, educators can transform reading and writing from static, print-based exercises into multi-sensory, interactive experiences. Grades K–8

Includes: • Cool Web Tools • Teacher Tools and Tips

50 Quick & Easy PowerPoint Activities

Use PowerPoint in ways you’ve never dreamed! Your students will become PowerPoint wizards! Through these 50 innovative activities, students gain content, and develop creativity, critical thinking, and computer skills. Grades 3–12

Students create: • Mini-books • Bulletin boards • Flash cards • Comic strips • Chain-of-events paper chains • Game cards • ABC biographies • Current event reports • Electronic resumes • School surveys • Virtual college visits

50 Quick & Easy Computer Activities for Kids

This book is packed full of clever ideas for projects that integrate technology into all areas of the elementary curriculum, using Kid Pix, Inspiration, Microsoft Office, and the Internet. These simple activities will excite your students! Grades K–6

Activities & projects include: • Word processing • Desktop publishing • Painting • Drawing • Internet • Spreadsheet • Database • Inspiration • Kidspiration • Crafts

50 Quick & Easy Math Computer Activities

Enliven, enhance, and update your math lessons by integrating the resources and tools found on the Internet and on the classroom computer. This book is full of fascinating ideas and resources that will inspire both teachers and students. Grades K–6

Activities include: • Excel • PowerPoint • Inspiration • Kidspiration • Internet

Shipping August

Includes:
• 50 Quick & Easy PowerPoint Activities
• 50 Quick & Easy Computer Activities for Kids
• 50 Quick & Easy Reading & Writing Computer Activities
• 50 Quick & Easy Math Computer Activities

Order online: www.toolsforteachers.com Call in your order: 800.877.0858
Mail in your order: P.O. Box 70479 • Eugene, OR 97401 Fax your order: 541.349.0944

Teachers Connecting with Students and Teachers
Tessellations (Simple)

Grade Level:

K-2
• 3-5
• 6-8

CD-ROM Files:

• 18Tessellations

Overview:

After completing the Transformations activity (#20), students will be ready to try this one where they duplicate the shapes and arrange them to make a tessellation.

Software/Resources:

• Microsoft PowerPoint
• www.tessellations.org

NCTM Standards:

Instructional programs from prekindergarten through grade 12 should enable all students to:
• apply transformations and use symmetry to analyze mathematical situations. (Geometry)
• use visualization, spatial reasoning, and geometric modeling to solve problems. (Geometry)
• recognize and apply mathematics in contexts outside of mathematics. (Art)

The Teacher’s Role:

1. The teacher will define the term “tessellation” to the students and will show examples.
2. The teacher will demonstrate some of the “how-to” tips for creating tessellations.
3. The teacher will show students how to change colors and add shading to shapes.
**Student Instructions:**

**What is a tessellation?**  
A tessellation is a group of figures/shapes that cover a plane completely without gaps or overlapping.

**Getting Started:**
1. Open a blank PowerPoint presentation with a blank slide.
2. Add a shape such as the one at the right. (AutoShapes - Stars and Banners.)
3. Use the paint bucket to change the colors and/or shading.
4. Duplicate the shapes and tile them to make a tessellation.

**How-to Tips:**
- To move the shape -- click and drag the center.
- To resize the shape -- click and drag a corner handlepoint.
- To duplicate the shape -- hold down the **Control** key (win) or the **Option** key (mac) as you click and drag away from it.
- To nudge the shape -- select it and then use the arrow keys on your keyboard to nudge it up, down, left, or right.
- To nudge it a tiny bit -- hold down the **Control** Key (win) or the **Apple** key (mac) as you press the arrow keys.
- To select more than one shape -- hold the **Shift** key as you click to select the desired shapes.
- To flip a shape -- Select the shape, then Pull down the **Draw** tool to **Rotate** or **Flip** and choose to **Flip Horizontal** or **Flip Vertical**
- To rotate a shape -- New versions - click and drag the green circle at the top of the shape.  
  Older versions - select the **Free Rotate** tool in the drawing toolbar. Then click and drag a green corner handlepoint.  
  IMPORTANT - Always hold down the **Shift** key while rotating a shape!!!

**Examples:**
A. Example A is done using translations (slides).  
   Simply duplicate the shapes and then move them into a new position to create a pattern.

   ![Example A](image)

B. Duplicate the shapes; then flip some of them horizontally to make a pattern like example B.

   ![Example B](image)

C. For example C, duplicate a shape and then rotate it. Tile the shapes to make a pattern.

   ![Example C](image)

D. In example D, shading has been added:  
   1. Select the shape(s).
   2. From the triangle beside the paint bucket, choose **Fill Effects**.  
   3. Choose the desired gradient.  
   4. Try changing the line thickness and color too!  

   ![Example D](image)
Area / Perimeter (Part 1)

Grade Level:
K - 2
• 3 - 5
• 6 - 8

CD-ROM Files:
• AreaPerimeter

Overview:
In this activity, students will color in cells of a spreadsheet to represent all possibilities of rectangles with an area of 24. Students will record the width, length, area, and perimeter of each rectangle. Students will then analyze their data to determine which type of shapes have the smallest perimeters.

Software / Resources:
• Microsoft Excel

NCTM Standards:
In grades 3–5 all students should:
• understand such attributes as length, area, weight, volume, and size of angle and select the appropriate type of unit for measuring each attribute. (Measurement)
• explore what happens to measurements of a two-dimensional shape such as its perimeter and area when the shape is changed in some way. (Measurement)

The Teacher's Role:
1. The teacher will show students how to resize the columns of a spreadsheet to create square cells.
2. The teacher will demonstrate how to use the fill color option and border tools to create a rectangle.
3. The teacher will provide time for students to create all possible rectangles with an area of 24.
4. The teacher will show the students how to set up a table to record the width, length, area, and perimeter of each rectangle.
5. The teacher will lead a discussion about the dimensions of the rectangles the students have created.

Note - this activity is extended in Part 2.
Student Instructions:

Getting Ready:
1. Open a new blank Microsoft Excel document.
2. Click the upper left corner to select all cells (or pull down the Edit Menu to Select All).
3. Change the size of the columns so that all cells are square.
4. Select columns A, B, C, and D and make them wider (approximately their original size).

Creating Rectangles:
Do this in the area of the spreadsheet with square cells:
1. Click and drag to select 24 cells.
2. Use the Paint Bucket tool (fill color) at the top of the screen to fill in the 24 cells.
3. Use the Border icon to add All Borders to the 24 cells.
4. Repeat this procedure to create as many different rectangles as you can that contain 24 cells.

Entering the Data:
1. In the area at the left of your spreadsheet, enter the width, length, area, and perimeter of each of your rectangles.
2. Change fonts, colors, and sizes, if desired.

Discussing the Data:
1. Is it possible to create a rectangle with a width of 5 and an area of 24? Why or why not?
2. Look at the rectangle with a width of 3 and at the rectangle with a width of 8. What do you notice about them? Explain.
3. Describe the rectangles with the largest perimeters.
4. Describe the rectangles with the smallest perimeters.

Expanding your Thinking:
Your mother wants you to fence in an area in the back yard for a garden. She has provided you with 4 stakes and 36 feet of twine.

To give your mother the largest garden area possible, what would be the shape of the fenced area? (Long and skinny? Short and fat?)

Challenge:
What would be the width and length of the fenced area?