

INSTANT PARALLEL LINES

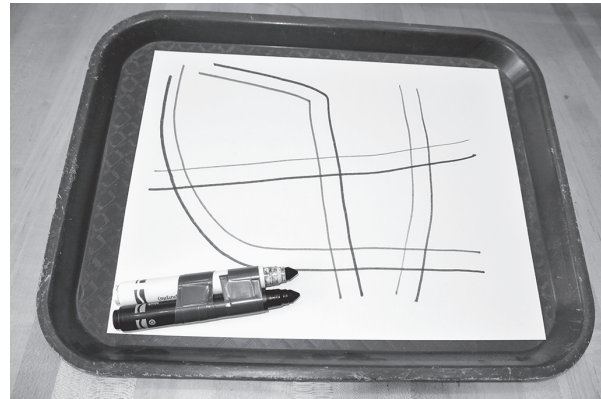
MATHEMATICS: GEOMETRY

Materials

- 2 markers, each a different color, taped together

Activity Description

Most of the lines children draw intersect, or cross over, each other at some point. By simply taping two markers together, teachers make it possible for children to instantly draw parallel straight lines. Even if children create loops with the markers, the two colors stay the same distance apart. As children experiment with this phenomenon, teachers can talk about the lines the children are creating and point out parallel lines in the classroom, such as bookcase shelves.



Integrating Science

Parallel lines occur throughout nature. For example, tree trunks and many flowers grow straight upward as they stretch toward the sunlight. This creates parallel lines. Layers of **sedimentary rock**, which can be observed in cuts made for roadways, also create parallel lines. Growth rings in trees, which can be observed in cross sections of tree trunks or branches, form **concentric** parallel lines.



Integrating Mathematics

The concept of parallel versus intersecting lines is important in geometry. There are many parallel lines in the school environment: fence rails, the frames of doors and windows, the borders of the hallway where the walls meet the floor or ceiling, the opposite sides of square floor tiling, steps on a staircase, the opposite edges of a book or puzzle, and so forth. Teachers can point out these lines throughout the day, and children will soon begin drawing attention to them as well.

Table 6.5: STEM Components in the Instant Parallel Lines Activity

SCIENCE	TECHNOLOGY	ENGINEERING	MATHEMATICS
Exploring parallel lines in nature	Children can observe many examples of parallel lines on a computer keyboard.	Parallel lines are critical in construction. Children can find many parallel lines by looking at buildings.	Geometry: recognizing parallel versus intersecting lines