# Discovering Transformations using GSP: The Geometer's Sketchpad 

A Transformation is a way of moving or changing a figure. There are three types of basic transformations that preserve the size and shape of the figure, namely.

- Translation
- Reflection
- Rotation


## Activity 1: Sketch and Investigation: Translations

Step 1: Open a new sketch and construct a many-sided polygon

- Go to the file menu and choose New sketch
- Use the point tool to construct points ABCDEFGHIJ with many sides as shown.

Step 2: Construct polygon interior

- Click on the selection arrow tool and select points ABCDEFGHIJ in order
- Go to Construct menu and select Polygon Interior

Step 3: In order to translate a shape, we need to indicate a direction and distance as follows:

- Construct segment $P Q$
- Select in order from point $P$ to point $Q$
- Go to Transform menu and select Mark vector

Step 4: Click inside the interior of the polygon

- Go to the Transform menu and select Translate

Step 5: Change the color of the translated image

- Double click the polygon interior with Text tool and label the translated polygon "Translated image"
Step 6: Drag point B to change your vector, and observe the relationship between the translated image and the original figure.


Question: Compare the translated image to the original figure. How are they different and how are they the same?

Activity 2 Sketch and Investigation: Reflections

Step 1: Open a new sketch and construct a many-sided polygon

- Go to the file menu and choose New sketch
- Use the point tool to construct many points with many sides as shown.

Step 2: Construct polygon interior

- Click on the selection arrow tool and select points in order
- Go to Construct menu and select Polygon Interior

Step 3: To reflect a shape you need a mirror line

- Draw a line and label it Mirror line;
- Mark the line as a mirror by double-click the line

Step 4: Select the interior polygon and go to Transform menu then select Reflect;
Step 5: Reflect the original polygon interior and change the color of the reflected image. Label it Reflected image;

Step 6: Drag your mirror line, and observe the relationship between the reflected image and the original figure.


Question: Compare the reflected image to the original figure. How are they different and how are they the same?

Activity 3: Sketch and Investigation: Rotations
Step 1: Open a new sketch and construct a polygon ABCDEFGHIJ

- Go to the file menu and choose New sketch
- Use the point tool to construct a polygon ABCDEFGHIJ as shown.

Step 2: Construct several polygon interior

- Click on the selection arrow tool and select points in order or using Marqee selection
- Go to Construct menu and select Polygon Interior

Step 3: Construct point R, and segment AR:

- Select point $\mathbf{R}$ and segment $\mathbf{A R}$;
- Go to the Transform menu and choose Mark Center or double click at point R.

Step 4: Click on the selection arrow tool and use a selection marquee to select polygon

## ABCDEFGHIJ.

- Go to Transform menu and choose Rotate;


Step 5: Rotate the original polygon interior and change the color of the image as shown.


Question: Compare the translated image to the original figure. How are they different and how are they the same?

