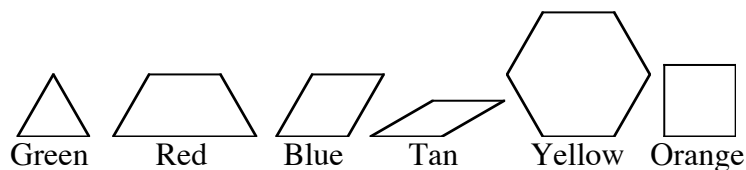


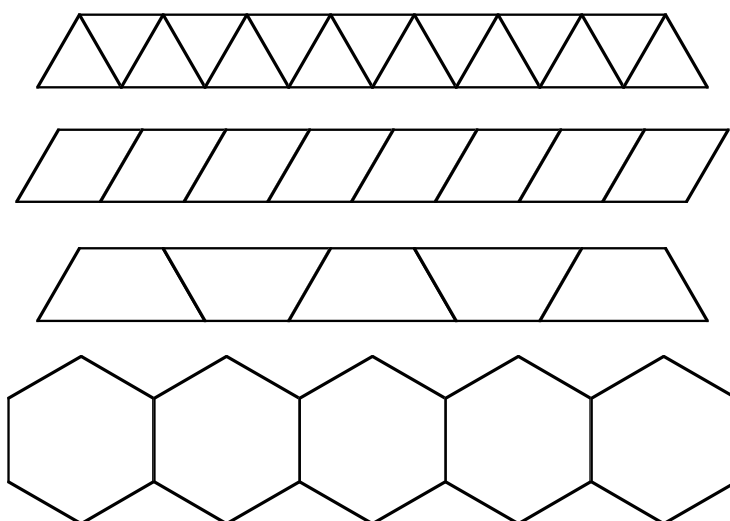
Pattern Block Trains

This activity requires pattern blocks, which are available from many vendors of math educational products. #1-5 can be adapted for students in grades 5 and up, but this version is intended for teachers.

The pattern blocks:



1. Build pattern block trains by connecting blocks *edge-to-edge*, from left to right.



What is the perimeter of each train, as a function of the number of blocks? For example, for the blue train, $P = 2n + 2$, where P is the perimeter, and n is the number of blocks.

2. The formulas are in the form $P = mn + b$. Explain the meaning of the m and the b in terms of the blocks.

