Describing Movement and Turns

Adult Guidance with Question Prompts

Children put their knowledge of movement and turns together to describe a sequence of both. They use the language clockwise, anticlockwise, forward, backward, left, right, quarter and half. Make sure children check the direction each creature is facing at the start and finish to help them decide what turns have taken place. To consolidate this further, play games like 'Simon Says' to encourage children to make movements and turns with their own bodies.

What direction is the spider facing at the start?

In which direction did the spider turn – left or right?

How many spaces did it move forward?

In which direction has the butterfly moved?

It has done a quarter turn, but did it turn clockwise or anticlockwise?

How do you know?

How far has the ant turned?

I think it has moved forward three spaces. Am I right? Why not?

In which direction has the ladybird moved?

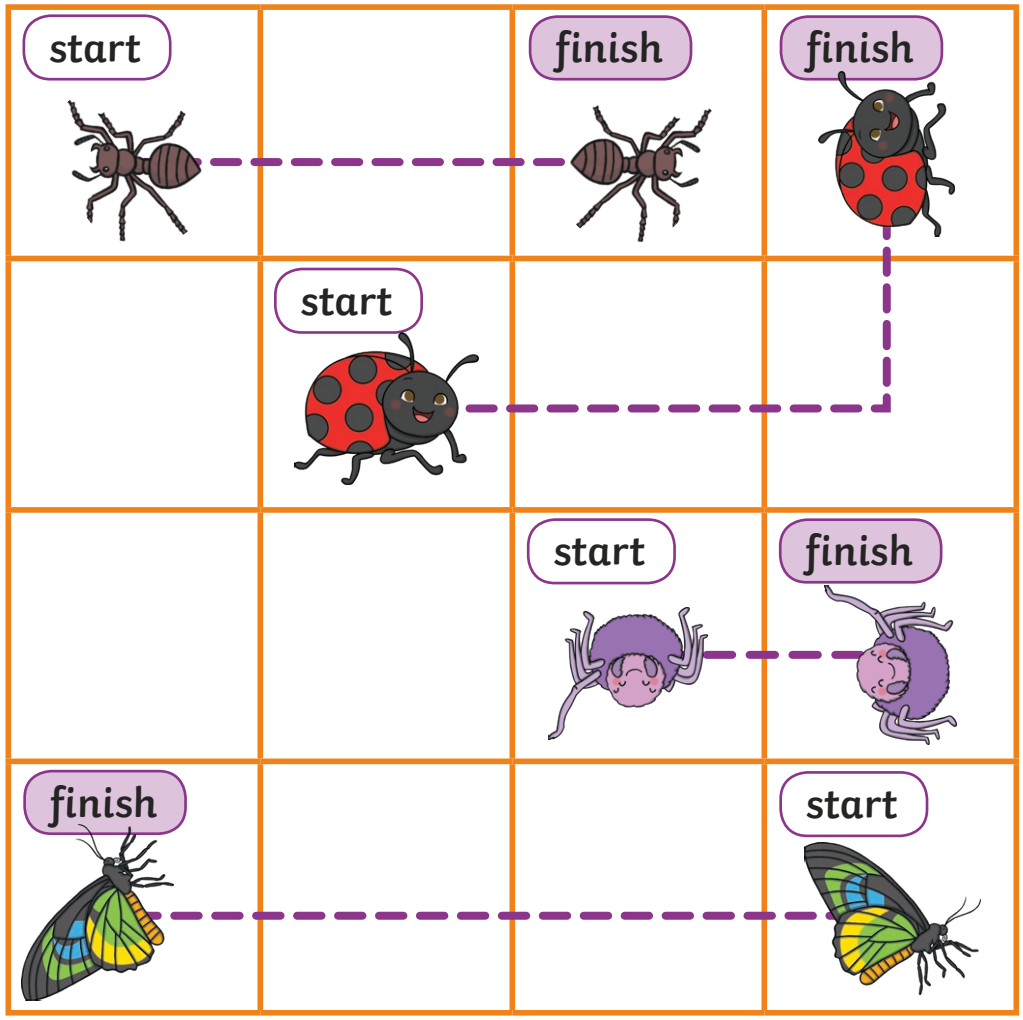
Did it turn left or right?

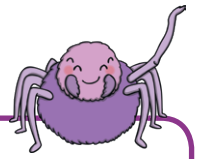
Then what did the ladybird do?

Can you give directions for a friend to follow? For example, you could say "Make a whole turn clockwise then walk forward 5 paces."

Describe Movements and Turns

Complete the sentences to describe how the animals have moved.

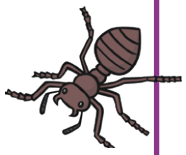




The spider has made a _____ turn and moved forward _____.

The butterfly has moved _____ 3 and made a quarter turn _____.

The ant has made a _____ turn clockwise and moved forward _____.



The ladybird has moved _____ 2, made a _____ turn and then moved forward _____.

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Children reason about turns and movement by comparing different types and deciding whether they are the same or different. They provide explanations for their ideas, possibly with practical examples. Children understand and use the language clockwise, anticlockwise, forward, backward, left, right, quarter and half.

What does clockwise/anticlockwise mean?

Can you show me by turning your body/an object?

Show me a half turn anticlockwise.

Show me a half turn clockwise.

Did you end up facing the same way after each of these turns?

Do you think that's always true?

Can you show me a quarter turn clockwise?

Show me a three-quarter turn clockwise.

Are they the same? Why not?

If one object/person turns left and one turns right, can they ever end up facing the same way?

What if they turn more than once?

Is the last statement always, sometimes or never true? How do you know?

Describing Movements and Turns

Are these statements always, sometimes or never true?

A half turn clockwise is the same as a half turn anticlockwise.

If one object turns left and another turns right, they will be facing different directions.

A quarter turn clockwise is the same as a three-quarter turn clockwise.

A three-quarter turn clockwise is the same as a quarter turn anticlockwise.

Explain your answers.

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Children will need squared paper for this activity. Children use the vocabulary they know to describe the movements and turns the ladybird makes to walk around all sides of the shape. They will benefit from having a small piece of equipment to move around and turn, for example a toy insect or a counter with eyes drawn on. This will especially help them with the turns. Children understand and use the language clockwise, anticlockwise, forward, backward, left, right, quarter and half. They can then extend this by drawing other right-angled shapes on squared paper and describe the routes around the sides. Check the shapes they are drawing all have right-angled corners.

What direction is the ladybird facing?

What is the first movement she needs to do to get to the next corner?

Which way should it turn then –clockwise or anticlockwise?

Clockwise or anticlockwise? How far?

Is that left or right?

Then what does it need to do?

What do you notice about the route you have written?

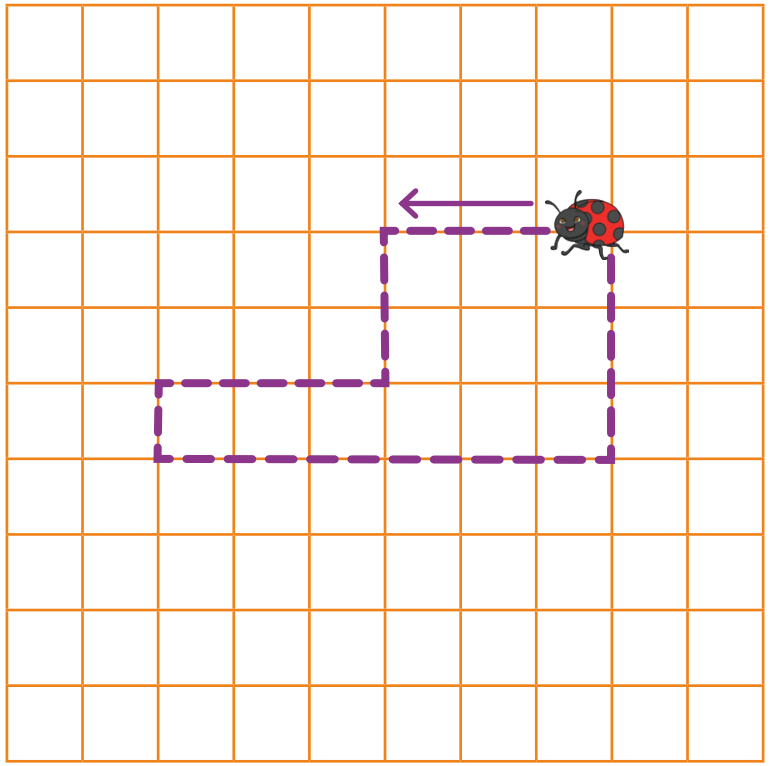
Are there any parts that repeat? Why has that happened?

Can you draw another 2D shape on squared paper and write a route to go with it?

Children could start with a rectangle and then draw more complex shapes.

Describing Movements and Turns

The ladybird is going to move all around the shape and back to where it started.



Describe the route the ladybird takes.

On squared paper, draw shapes and describe the routes around the sides.E