

An Example - Cauliflower

http://zitogiuseppe.com/images/cavolo2.jpg

What are fractals?

- Pattern repeats (Self-replicating)
- Smaller portions similar to bigger portion
- Self-similar objects smaller parts of the object are exact scaled down copies or replicas of the whole object.
- The term "fractal" was coined by the mathematician Benoît Mandelbrot in 1975.

Some examples

https://temetski.github.io/blog/fractals

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/421227371378881168/

STAGE 0

Equilateral Triangle

Now, mark the mid-points of all sides and join them What do you get?

Investigating our construction

Is there a pattern to this?

How many copies of Stage 0 is in Stages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5?

How many copies of Stage 1 is in Stages 2, 3, 4, 5?

Copies of Stages

STAGE 2

How many copies of Stage 2 is in Stages 3, 4, 5?

Copies of Stages

STAGES

In general how many copies of the previous stages will you find in stage n?

Let the area of the shaded triangle at **stage 0** be **A** sq. unit. What will be the *area of shaded triangles* in other stages?

What constant multiplier can be used to go from one stage to the next? Express the area of shaded triangles as are powers of a given fraction.

What happens to the area of the shaded triangles as n increases indefinitely?

Can you express the shaded area at any given stage in terms of the shaded area of the previous stage?

Perimeter

Let us assume this triangle to have a side of length **1** unit. What will be the *perimeter of shaded triangles* of other stages?

| 2 | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 3 | ••• | ••• | ••• | ••• | ••• |

...*n*

What constant multiplier can be used to go from one stage to the next?

What happens to the length of the boundary of the shaded triangles as n increases?

Can you express the length of the boundary of the shaded triangles at any given stage in terms of the length of the boundary of the shaded triangles of the previous stage?

Some Questions

What happens to the area and Perimeter as the number of stages increases?

What other observations can we make from the areas and perimeters we have found?

| No. of Stages | Area | Perimeter |
|------------------|------|-----------|
| 0 | A | 3 |
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |

| | A | В | С | D |
|----|--------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Stage number | Number of shaded triangles | Shaded area | Perimeter |
| 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 3 | 1 | 3 | 0.75 | 4.5 |
| 4 | 2 | 9 | 0.5625 | 6.75 |
| 5 | 3 | 27 | 0.421875 | 10.125 |
| 6 | 4 | 81 | 0.31640625 | 15.1875 |
| 7 | 5 | 243 | 0.237304688 | 22.78125 |
| 8 | 6 | 729 | 0.177978516 | 34.171875 |
| 9 | 7 | 2187 | 0.133483887 | 51.2578125 |
| 10 | 8 | 6561 | 0.100112915 | 76.88671875 |
| 11 | 9 | 19683 | 0.075084686 | 115.3300781 |
| 12 | 10 | 59049 | 0.056313515 | 172.9951172 |
| 13 | 11 | 177147 | 0.042235136 | 259.4926758 |
| 14 | 12 | 531441 | 0.031676352 | 389.2390137 |
| 15 | 13 | 1594323 | 0.023757264 | 583.8585205 |
| 16 | 14 | 4782969 | 0.017817948 | 875.7877808 |
| 17 | 15 | 14348907 | 0.013363461 | 1313.681671 |
| 18 | 16 | 43046721 | 0.010022596 | 1970.522507 |
| 19 | 17 | 129140163 | 0.007516947 | 2955.78376 |
| 20 | 18 | 387420489 | 0.00563771 | 4433.67564 |
| 21 | 19 | 1162261467 | 0.004228283 | 6650.51346 |
| 22 | 20 | 3486784401 | 0.003171212 | 9975.77019 |

Other Fractals we can create

Koch snowflake

https://mathigon.org/course/fractals/introduction

http://zitogiuseppe.com/project/nfractals.html