

Appreciation for Fractals

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In this curriculum unit, students will be introduced to the world of fractals. Through various lessons, students will embark on a journey showing how fractals pertain to real life. Natural fractals are present in everyday life without most of us even knowing. Through a hands-on activity involving cauliflower, students can get an up close look at some of the most basic features of a fractal. Students will also be given the opportunity to examine many visual representations of real world fractals and explore how self-similarity is present in each one. These observations of real life fractals will also allow the students to engage in the mathematical ideas of patterns, symmetry, and iterations that are present in such well known fractals like the Koch Snowflake and Sierpinski Triangle. These hands on demonstrations will help the students appreciate the presence of fractals in life and their connections to mathematics.