

AREA OF POLYGONS AND CIRCLES

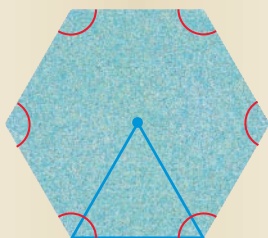
► *Where do hexagons occur in nature?*



APPLICATION: Area of Columns

Basaltic columns are geological formations that result from rapidly cooling lava.

Most basaltic columns are hexagonal, or six sided. The Giant's Causeway in Ireland, pictured here, features hexagonal columns ranging in size from 15 to 20 inches across and up to 82 feet high.

**Think & Discuss**

1. A regular hexagon, like the one above, can be divided into equilateral triangles by drawing segments to connect the center to each vertex. How many equilateral triangles make up the hexagon?
2. Find the sum of the angles in a hexagon by adding together the base angles of the equilateral triangles.

Learn More About It

You will learn more about the shape of the top of a basaltic column in Exercise 34 on p. 673.



APPLICATION LINK Visit www.mcdougallittell.com for more information about basaltic columns.

