

What is a Geometry?

- 1) The word geometry comes from two Greek words meaning earth and measure. Does this definition coincide with what you think of as Geometry?
- 2) What are the core building blocks of a geometry; or what are the basic objects that doing geometry requires?
- 3) Are these objects easy to define? See handout for Euclid's definitions. Do they make sense? Do they communicate the sense of the object, or do you need to know what they are before the definitions make sense?
- 4) Euclid has the notion of a line and a straight line. What is the difference? What is the essence of straightness? How can you determine if a line is straight?
- 5) List any properties that straight lines possess? Are any of these testable; that is, can you use them to determine if something isn't straight? (A good example is how can you tell if a row of fence posts are in a straight line or not?)