

### Things to know

There are precisely five types of platonic solids:

Tetrahedron

Cube

Octahedron

Dodecahedron

Icosahedrons



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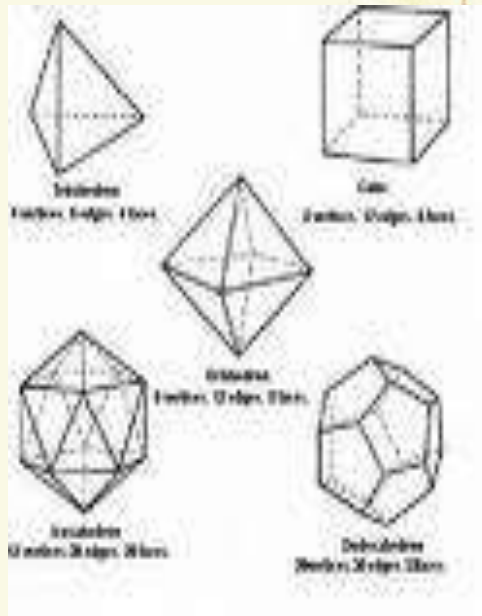


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## PLATONIC SOLIDS



## The Beauty of It



The platonic solid\*\*.

## The Meanings & History

A Platonic solid is a convex polyhedron that is regular in the sense of a regular polygon. Specifically the faces of a platonic solid are congruent regular polygons, with the same number of faces meeting at each vertex; thus all its edges are congruent, as are its vertices and angles.

The platonic solids have been known since antiquity. Ornamented models of them can be found among the carved balls created by the late Neolithic people of Scotland at least 1000 years before Plato.

Dice go back to the dawn of civilization with shapes that argued formal charting of platonic solids. The ancient Greeks studied the platonic solids extensively. Some sources credit Pythagoras with their discovery. Some suggest that he was only familiar with certain shapes such as the cube, tetrahedron, and the dodecahedron. The platonic solids feature prominently in the philosophy of Plato from whom they are named.

Plato wrote about them in the dialogue *Timaeus* c. 360 B.C.