

The patella / Key

ANSWER KEY

1. Base

The broad superior border is the base. The quadriceps tendon attaches here. Color the marked superior region of the anterior view.

2. Apex

The apex is the inferior tip. The patellar ligament extends from the inferior patella toward the tibial tuberosity. Color the marked tip of the anterior view.

3. Anterior surface

The convex anterior surface faces forward and has a rough texture. Color the remaining anterior face between the base and apex regions.

4. Medial articular facet

The medial articular facet lies on the medial side of the posterior surface. It is the smaller of the two broad facets in this drawing.

5. Lateral articular facet

The lateral articular facet is the larger posterior facet in this drawing. Together, the two broad facets articulate with the patellar surface of the femur.

6. Nonarticular posterior surface

The rough inferior part of the posterior surface lies below the broad articular area. Color this region separately from the two smooth facets above it.

READING THE TWO SURFACES

The patella is a sesamoid bone within the quadriceps tendon. The posterior articular surface faces the femur. The raised line between regions 4 and 5 is the median ridge; it separates the two broad facets.

An additional narrow medial area, the odd facet, varies in form and is not separately resolved in this drawing. This exercise maps the two broad facets rather than every smaller subdivision.

The base and apex divisions mark study regions on continuous bone; they do not show exact tendon or ligament attachment borders.