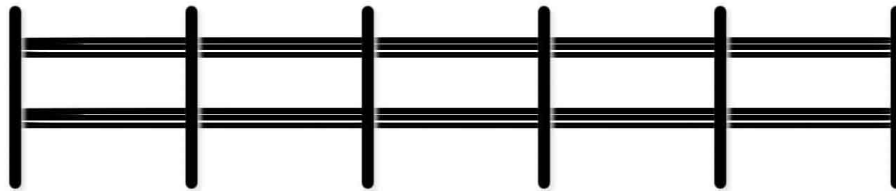## Task: A Sidetrack on Counting

In mathematics, as in life, *sometimes* you're interested in the gaps, and *sometimes* the end-points. So for a fence, we might count the posts or the fence segments:

6 posts in this instance, and 5 fence segments (actually 10, but that's 2×5 gaps).

Now if the beginning and the end of this fence used the same post—for instance if the fence actually enclosed an area—then we'd have 5 posts and still 5 segments:
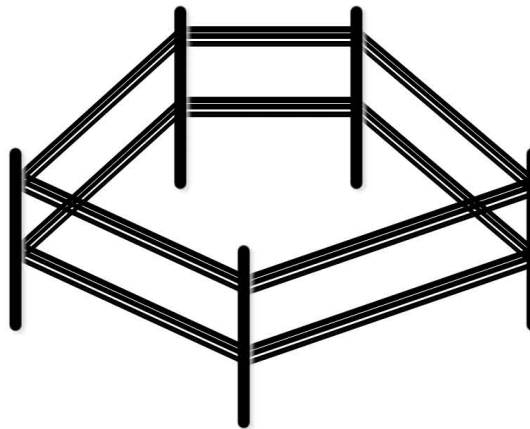
In the instance of our plots, we've identified the edge trees with one another, and that's the same idea as making a circle out of our fence. In fact, the *Making a Donut* Task of the *Donuts* sequence shows how we've not only wrapped our plot around sideways, but also top to bottom (making our field into a donut with trees on it, kind of like a small donut-shaped planet). That's kind of why we've adopted the Plot numbering that we have.

As we'll see this naming more naturally fits with the properties we're about to observe. Specifically, with our numbering, we'll see prime numbered plots behave quite differently to other plots.

To really drill down on this counting difference, I encourage you to check out my friend Kalid's wonderful explanation of the different ways of counting on Better Explained. His explanation requires a little reading, but it's brilliant!