



The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!

ACTIVITY

EXPLORING THE SHAPES AROUND US





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Overview

If you look closely at the things around you—both inside and outside your home—you may be surprised by how many shapes you can find. There are shapes in food, shapes in the architectural features of buildings, and shapes in road signs. There are even shapes in people, like round or oval faces and eyes. Shapes are all around you!

The Math Idea

Most objects are made up of shapes—sometimes a single shape and sometimes many shapes put together. A bee's eye, for example, is made up of many hexagons connected together. You can see shapes in many of the things you eat. A pizza is round, and when you cut it into slices, the slices are triangles. Brownies are often cut into squares. Fruits like oranges and grapes are round, but a watermelon can be either round or oval. When you are spending time with your child, point out the shapes in everyday objects and ask your child to do the same.

Skills: Geometry and Shape Recognition
Ages: 3–6

What to Do

- [Shape Collage](#)
- [Take It Further](#)

Getting Ready

Talk with your child about the characteristics of different kinds of shapes, like how many sides and corners they have. Focus on circles, squares, rectangles, hexagons, octagons, and pentagons. Point out that some shapes have the same number of sides, but they are not always the same length. Spend time together pointing out and talking about the shapes in everyday objects like furniture, food, road signs, and the patterns in rugs and floors. Invite your child to look through a magazine with you, and hunt for shapes in the pictures.

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Shape Collage

What You Need

- A magazine with lots of pictures.
- Child-safe scissors
- Heavy paper such as construction paper or poster board
- Glue

How to Do It

1. Look through the magazine with your child and find as many shapes as you can. You'll be surprised by how many shapes are in the pictures and decorative elements of the magazine (e.g., circles: a picture of a cake, pizza, or even a person's face; triangles: a slice of pizza, a mountain; oval: an egg, a watermelon, a football; rectangle: a building, a box of cereal). Cooking magazines are particularly good for this activity because they contain pictures of items very familiar to your child. Print out the picture of the Cat separated from Thing One and Thing Two. Use a marker or crayon to draw a wavy line that connects them. The wavy line should be done in a way that your child can easily follow it with pieces of pasta.
2. Cut out all the pictures that contain shapes, and glue them onto a sheet of paper to create a colorful shape collage.

Take It Further

Make a shape book. Get five sheets of paper. At the top of each, write the name of one of the following shapes: circle, triangle, rectangle, square, and hexagon. Now, go on a shape hunt around your house or neighborhood. Be sure to take a camera with you. When you find one of the shapes, take a picture of it. Glue each picture onto the sheet of paper with the heading that names the shape in the picture. Staple the pages together, and create a cover for your shape book!

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More Ways to Discover and Learn

Look in a Book

Round Is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes, by Roseanne Thong; illustrated by Grace Lin
Shapes, Shapes, Shapes, by Tana Hoban
The Shape of Me and Other Stuff, by Dr. Seuss

New Words

Shape Vocabulary: circle, oval, square, triangle, rectangle, hexagon, octagon, pentagon

Related Game

Play the game “Sketch-a-Mite” on PBS KIDS (<http://pbskids.org/catinthehat/games/sketch-a-mite.html>)