

Topics: Pre-K and K-1st,
Shape Recognition,
Sorting and Classifying

Materials List

- ✓ Shapes in a variety of sizes and colors or paper/cardstock
- ✓ RAFT die cuts are available
- ✓ Optional: Laminator

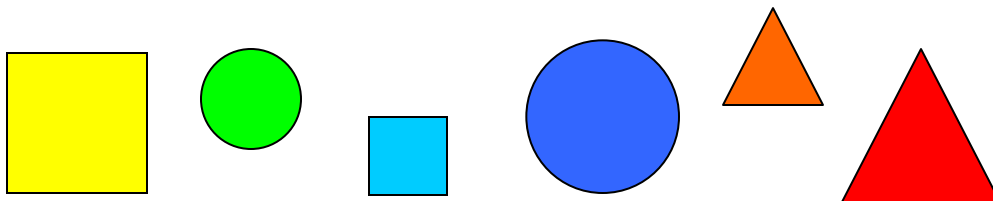
This activity can be used to teach:

- Describe, Compare, & Classify objects (Common Core Math Standards: Grade K, Measurement and Data, 1, 2, & 3)
- Compare, & Classify shapes (Common Core Math Standards: Grade K, Geometry, 2&3&4; Grade 1, Geometry, 1)

Co-operative learning, self-regulation, and taking turns

Shapes Galore

Name that Shape



A small group activity to introduce shapes and their attributes to young learners in a relaxed and playful way.

Assembly

1. Collect a variety of shapes or create shapes by hand or die cutting. The number of shapes will depend on the age of the students, but should include circles, triangles, rectangles, squares in a variety of sizes and colors. Additional shapes can be added to the mix as desired e.g., rhombuses, hearts, semicircles.
2. Laminate paper shapes for durability, if desired.

To Do and Notice

1. Gather a small group of children.
2. Present an example of a single shape (e.g., a square) in a variety of sizes and colors. Name the shape. Tell the children that all the shapes are the same (e.g., "All these shapes are squares.") even if they are different colors or different sizes. Allow the children to manipulate and explore the shapes.
3. Have each child select a shape to hold while you note its characteristics e.g. count the sides, count the vertices.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 with each shape.
5. Present a mix of shapes. Name a shape and encourage the children to find an example of that shape. Discuss why each selection was made and correct errors by reiterating the characteristics of the shape.
6. Keep the sessions short and playful and repeat often, eliminating steps 2 and 3 as the children master the concept.
7. As skill increases, add additional shapes.

The Math Behind the Activity

"The purpose of a strong preschool mathematics program should be to enhance and strengthen children's informal mathematical abilities and to build a firm foundation for the more formal learning that begins in kindergarten." (CA *Prekindergarten Learning Development Guidelines, 2000*). Early math concepts are best introduced with playful activities that are nonthreatening and non competitive so that children are successful. Children's attitudes about Math and their own ability to succeed are being formed in this critical period. Concept mastery and confidence are built by lots of repetition.

Taking it Further

- Play the game in another language.
- Extend the activity by adding 3-D shapes.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=635 for more resources!)

- Teacher designed math courses – <https://njctl.org/courses/math>