

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Shape Recognition & Identification, Vocabulary Development, Properties of Materials, Creating Art

Materials List

- ✓ Sturdy paper or poster board
- ✓ Paper in a variety of colors and types
- ✓ Fabric scraps
- ✓ Decorative items of the appropriate shape (e.g., noodles or macaroni, buttons)
- ✓ Glue, glue sticks, or paste
- ✓ Optional: Glue or paste brushes

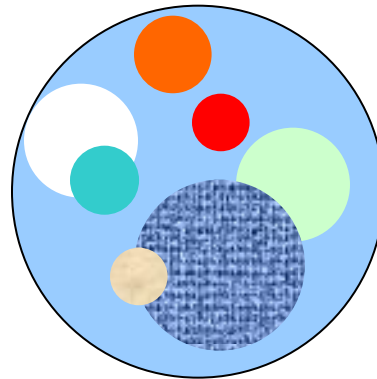
This activity can be used to teach:

- Compare, & Classify objects (Common Core Math Standards: Grade K, Measurement / Data, 2-3)
- Describe, Compare, Classify, Model, and Compose shapes (Common Core Math Standards: Grade K, Geometry, 1-5, Grade 1, Geometry, 1-2)
- Vocabulary (Common Core English Language Arts Standards: Grades K-1, Language, 5)



Shape Collage

Circles on a Circle, Squares on a Square...



What's your favorite shape? Use your favorite shape to create a work of art!

Assembly

1. Cut a variety of large shapes from the poster board or sturdy paper – squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, etc.
2. Cut or tear **many** smaller shapes from the colored paper or fabric. Older children can cut or tear their own shapes.

To Do and Notice

1. Choose a large shape to serve as the base.
2. Select smaller size pieces of the same shape as the base.
3. Apply glue or paste evenly over one area at a time and press the small shapes onto the large one. Shapes can overlap.
4. While the entire surface need not be covered, the finished collage will be more satisfying if many of the smaller shapes are used.
5. Engage the children in conversation as they work, noting what each is doing.

The Content Behind the Activity

Art projects may be the perfect vehicles for helping young children learn about shapes. This activity allows them to identify various shapes, to discover similarities and differences, to manipulate shapes and to create new shapes. This activity meets the needs of younger learners because it is process oriented (rather than project focused) allowing the child complete control over the piece. In fact, young children often have no interest in the finished piece. Conversing with the children as they work introduces a literacy component and provides an opportunity to build language acquisition and vocabulary development in a natural and non threatening way.

Taking it Further

- Have everyone work on one really big class collage.
- Celebrate (shape) day (week) and everyone make the same shape collage.
- Create a collage using only white paper and paint the finished collage a favorite color.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=651 for more resources!)