

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Shape Recognition; Problem Solving; Vocabulary Building

Materials List

- ✓ Common geometric shapes
- ✓ Bag or container to hold the shapes
- ✓ Real objects collected from the environments that match the geometric shapes, if desired.
- ✓ Chart or to record results (Clipboard and pen are more portable)

This activity can be used to teach:

- Identify and describe common objects in environment and the Geometric features (CA Math Standards: Measurement & Geometry Grade K, 2.0)
- Identify and describe Geometric figures (CA Math Standards: Measurement and Geometry Grade K, 2.1)
- Co-operative learning, self-regulation, and taking turns

I Can Find a Shape like That

“We’re Goin’ on a Shape Hunt...”



circle



rectangle



triangle

This active game allows young learners to explore their environment and to discover that shapes that are all around them.

Assembly

1. Place shapes in the bag.

Playing the Game (4 – 6 players)

1. This activity is best shared with a small group.
2. Gather the children together and share the shapes one at a time. Have the children name each shape and tell what makes it unique.
3. Ask the children to examine the “real” objects you have collected. Encourage them to match each one with a shape, for example, a napkin might be a square or a rectangle. Skip this step with older preschoolers.
4. Replace the shapes in the bag and invite the children to join in a walk around the room (playground, park, etc.)
5. Have one child draw a shape out of the bag, name it and find a similar shape in the environment. If that is difficult, encourage the child to pick a friend to help.
6. Children take turns being the leader and take turns choosing a shape and calling out its name. Continue playing as time permits. Keep the sessions short and playful and repeat often.
7. When the hunt is over it is time to record the results. Place or draw the shape on the chart and record the object the children found in the environment.
8. Invite other children to find and name objects that are the same shape and record their findings.
9. Review the data on the chart. Of which shape were the most examples found? The least?
10. As skill increases, add additional shapes

The Math Behind the Activity

Young learners are surrounded by shapes. Identifying real objects as specific geometric shapes extends their understanding of geometric relationships and builds vocabulary. A game like *I Can Find A Shape Like That* allows the young learner to practice math concepts in an active, playful and non competitive environment. Don’t be fooled. Games are not just “fun” for students. Brain research shows that when we are enjoying ourselves, our brains are open and receptive to learning. Studies reveal that when a child’s brain is engaged in the learning process, the concepts are retained far longer. Informal mathematical abilities formed at this critical learning period build a foundation for more formal learning. In addition, while engaged in a cooperative game, young learners are developing 21st century skills – self regulation, communication and vocabulary development, and cooperative problem solving.

Taking it Further

- Make this activity a scavenger hunt where each child hunts on his/her own or with a partner. Older children could use a check-off sheet to record the shapes they discover.
- Create individual books or a class book with a page for each shape. It will be a meaningful review of the activity.
- Hide the shapes and choose children to find them. The rest of the group can let the searcher know if s/he is getting closer (warmer) or farther away (colder).
- Play at mealtime or snack time and identify the shapes of the food.
- For the youngest learners, the hunt might be limited to one shape at a time.
- Extend the learning by creating a graph that represents data from the chart. Graphs from different “hunts” can be compared.
- Hunt through magazines or other publications for pictures or drawings that match the shapes.
- Add 3-D shapes
- See RAFT Idea Sheets *Shapes Galore* and *Shape Collage* for more shape related activities.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/more for how-to videos and more ideas!)