

Shapes of the Wild

Teacher Lesson Plan and Activity Pre K-K

Time: 45 minutes-1 hour



Introduction: In nature, there are many objects that we can find that represent basic shape patterns. This activity takes students outdoors, and inspires them to recognize the shapes of the natural world around them.

Concept: Populations of wild animals' exhibit variations in size and structure of their natural habitats as a result of their adaptations to their surroundings. Students will learn to associate the shapes that they are seeing with what they see in a natural setting.

Objective: Students will identify common shapes appearing in the outdoors surrounding them.

Assessment Opportunity: Take students outside to look for five shapes. Encourage them to find other shapes other than the five given to them.

Getting Ready: Create shape necklaces for each student by cutting out a circle, triangle, and square. Write the name of the shape, and then thread through string. Make enough for each student. Instead of necklaces, can give plastic shapes that the students can hold in their hands.

Resources: Shapes, string (for necklaces), tic-tac-toe grid, camera (to take pictures of shapes student's find), pencil

Part A: I Spy

- Ask students what their favorite shapes are. Hold up each shape, asking students to identify it. Ask them if they can identify something that has that specific shape.
- Go for a walk around an outdoor area with the students, making sure they either have their shape necklace or shapes in hand.
- Bring a camera to take pictures of the shapes that the students find in the outdoors.
- Stop in a specific spot as a group, and play "I spy" with the shapes on their necklace, have student's play a game together of which shapes they see, and identify the object together.
- Give the students time to look for the shape you are holding up. You may take turns with the students, or identify the shape as the teacher and have students guess. If they identify another item of that shape, acknowledge that it is correct but it is not the shape you have in mind and to keep guessing.
- Once the students have identified one or more objects you've spied, encourage them to look for more objects in the habitats that match their necklace. When they see the shape, teach them to say "I Spy!" and have the other students try and find that specific shape. With younger students it is a good idea to add color to the list of things being spied. Example: "I spy something that is yellow and is shaped like a -----".

- When you get back to the meeting area, hold up each shape and ask students to recall things they saw in the habitats that were the same shape. Then have them draw a picture of the object they spied that was the same shape.
- With assisting student to recall what they saw in that shape, you can write that object on the back of their shape necklace to remind them.

Part B. Show and Tell Shapes – Tic-Tac-Toe

- Put the shape cutouts in a bag and have each student pick one. Tell them to keep their shape a secret from everyone else.
- Before going outside, make sure each student has a piece of paper, and a pencil/crayon to draw with. Either use clip boards or pieces of cardboard with rubber bands for students to secure their paper.
- Ask the students to focus on their specific shape, and to draw whatever they see in the habitat that is their selected shape.
- Take the students on a leisure walk and stop whenever they see an object of their shape they would like to draw.
- Tell them not to point out the objects they are drawing, that we will compare notes once we are done with the walk.
- When finished and gathered together as a group, have a volunteer discuss which shape they were looking for and show the pictures they created during the walk. Did any other students share similar shapes and objects?
- Talk about all of the other shapes in turn and ask students to share their drawings of those shapes.
- Encourage students and teachers to create a bulletin board of their experience with “Shapes in the Wild”, by giving their students time to color their drawings and create new ones.





Square



Circle



Triangle



Oval



Rectangle

Shapes of the Wild

Draw a different shape in each of the spaces to play Tic-Tac-Toe! Find a triangle, square, circle, oval, or rectangle that you see in nature. Write its name on the blue line.

Example- Draw a circle, the circle was a [rock](#).

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