

SHAPE DETECTIVES

Purpose: Students will move about the room finding objects that are in the shape of a circle, triangle, square, and rectangle.

Suggested Grade Level: K - 1

Math SOL: Geometry K.11

Equipment/Materials Needed: Many different shaped objects placed throughout the classroom where they can be easily reached and retrieved by the students. Examples of different shaped objects are cereal boxes that are rectangular, and balls and paper plates that are circular. You can also cut different shapes out of cardboard and place the cardboard shapes all around the classroom.

Advance Preparation: Scatter the different shaped objects and/or cut-out paper shapes all around the classroom.

Directions:

1. Explain to students they will be shape detectives today.
2. You will call out a type of shape and then tell the students how they are supposed to move around the room to find objects or cut-outs that are that shape.
3. For example, you can tell them to tip toe and find a circle, or hop and find a square.
4. Depending upon how many objects and cut-out shapes you have, and how much time there is, you can either have the students retrieve only one object or cut-out, or you can have them collect as many as they can find before you say “stop”.
5. When you say “stop”, they should return to their desks to show the class what they have retrieved. When they show the class, they should hold up what they have and name its shape.
6. Continue in this way until students have had a chance to retrieve all four types of shapes.

Modifications/Variations:

1. Have students travel in pairs to help each other.
2. Have them sequence. First tiptoe to a circle; second, hop to a square; third, crabwalk to a triangle. Then walk back to their seat.
3. Do this activity in a large area with lots of shapes to allow more movement
4. You can also, time permitting, reinforce other math skills by asking the students to count how many shapes/cut-outs they have, and then discuss who has the most, who has the least, and who has the same number of shapes.

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