

Geometry Scavenger Hunt

What geometric shapes can you find on the playground?

Materials

- Geometric Shapes chart (see page 2)
- paper (one or more sheets of 8.5" × 11" white paper)
- clipboard or book to support the paper
- pencil
- colored pens
- stapler
- digital camera (optional)
- printer (optional)
- glue or tape (optional)

Group Size

small groups

Background

You can find geometric shapes everywhere! Practice observation skills and notice examples of geometric shapes in this scavenger hunt, and then sketch and write about each shape. This activity can be very specific—for example, focusing on different types of triangles—or it can be very broad and include a variety of different shapes.

Try This

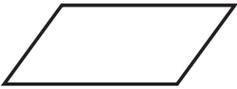
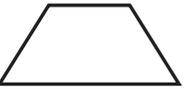
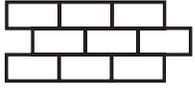
1. Use the Geometric Shapes chart to review shapes that you know and to identify shapes that you hope to find on your scavenger hunt.
2. Fold the paper in half (short end to short end) to create the first four pages of a booklet. Plan to use each page for one or two shapes. If you're going to add photos, you'll probably need a whole page for each shape. Decide how many shapes you'll try to find, and fold additional sheets of paper as necessary.
3. Take your materials and go to the playground with your group.
4. The group can be divided into smaller subgroups. Each subgroup should choose an interesting location or two at which to make observations.
5. When you spot a geometric shape, briefly sketch the playing court or structure where you found it, and then indicate the shape with a darker line. Write the name of the shape and where you found it (for example, "square, found in four-square court"). If you have a digital camera, take pictures of your shapes.
6. If you took photographs, get them printed, and then glue or tape them to your pages.
7. You can use colored pens to highlight particular shapes or words.
8. Assemble your pages into a booklet, using the colored paper as the cover, and staple the booklet along the folded midline. Write a title and your name on the front cover.
9. Share your booklet with your whole group.

4	1
3	2

Extensions

- Add a measuring tape to the materials listed above. In addition to finding shapes, measure lengths, widths, diameters, and so on to find perimeters, areas, and volumes.

Geometric Shapes Chart

Lines and Plane Figures				
	horizontal line	vertical line	diagonal line	parallel lines
				
	perpendicular lines	curve	right angle	acute angle
				
	obtuse angle	triangle	square	rectangle
				
pentagon	hexagon	octagon	polygon	
				
circle	arc	ellipse	right triangle	
				
equilateral triangle	scalene triangle	isosceles triangle	quadrilateral	
				
parallelogram	rhombus	trapezoid	tessellation	
Solid Figures				
	cube		cylinder	rectangular prism
				
pyramid	tetrahedron		octahedron	
				
polyhedron	sphere		cone	