

Geometric Shapes All Around Us

By Rhonda Bennett
Grades K-5

Time:

2 class periods (varies base on whole group vs. rotational photo field trips)

Objectives:

Students will...

- Use their knowledge of different properties of geometric shapes.
- Go on a field trip throughout the school looking for different geometric shapes.
- Take pictures of those objects.

Materials List:

- Digital camera or single-use disposable camera for each group of 2-4 students
- White construction paper or poster board (11" x 14" or 12" x 18")
- Glue sticks
- Black permanent markers

Question to Ponder:

What type of geometric shapes can you see in your school and/or environment?

Part 1: Collect Pictures

Students will work in groups of 2-4, depending on your class size and the number of cameras available. Groups can take turns collecting pictures, if there is only one camera available.

Groups will look around at their surroundings and take pictures of different things they see that actually are a geometric shape or combine to make a geometric shape. Each student will identify and take a picture of at least one object.

Have each student write down the number of their pictures with a brief description, so you will know which student took the pictures.

Part 2: Make a Poster

Each student will take their pictures and mount them onto a piece of construction paper or poster board. Next, the student will outline the geometric shape with a marker. After that, they will label the shape with the number of angles and sides and write the name of the geometric shape (square, octagon, etc.)

Part 3: Display and Compare Posters

Display all the posters of the different geometric shapes, so students can view all the shapes found throughout their school.

Directions:

1. Divide the students into groups of four.
2. Supervise a field trip in the school building or out on the playground.
3. Students will take four pictures of different shapes that they see in and around their school.
4. Once the pictures are developed, or downloaded and printed, students will glue their four pictures to the construction paper.
5. Students will label the pictures with the information requested (see below).

Conclusion:

This activity can be used as an evaluating tool after studying geometric shapes and their descriptions. Often, students do not realize they are being tested and truly enjoy this hands-on activity.



Pop machine in the hallway.



Table from the media center.



Items found in the hallway or on a door in the school.