

Take-Home Math Sample Activities (Primary and Junior Grades)

Shape Search

Where's the Math?

Children will explore and investigate two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional figures in the world around them.

Materials

pencil, paper, keen eyes

Activity Steps

1. Go on a shape search around your house.
2. Look for two-dimensional shapes (e.g., circle, triangle, square) and three-dimensional figures (e.g., cube, sphere, cylinder).
3. Which shape or figure do you see the most?
4. Why do you think that shape or figure is the most common?

Math Talk

What shapes do you see most in nature? Why do you think that is so?

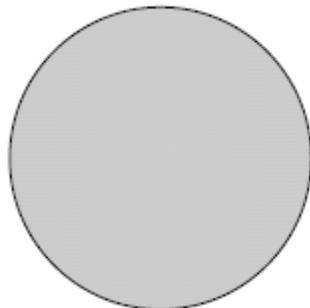
What shapes do you see most in things that people make? Why do you think that is so?

Hints for Parents

This activity can be done while driving in the car, walking to the park, sitting in the arena, and so forth.

Extensions

Make a chart of the different shapes and solids that you see. Tally the number of two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional figures.



Take-Home Math Sample Activities (Primary and Junior Grades)

Crazy Quilt

Where's the Math?

In this game for two players, the players will be looking for geometric figures and developing logical strategies to create them.

Materials

- 2 different-coloured pencils or markers (1 for each player)
- a copy of the Crazy Quilt Game Sheet, which is shown at the end of this activity description

Activity Steps

Play with a friend or a family member. The object of the game is to score more points than your opponent by completing more four-piece shapes.

1. Each player chooses a colour.
2. The first player colours any single triangle on the outer part of the board (the twelve outside squares)
3. The second player colours a single triangle in the inner part of the board (the four inner squares).
4. Players take turns colouring a triangle anywhere on the grid. They count points as they go.
5. The game ends when the grid is completely filled or when neither player can score further.

Math Talk

What strategies did you use to earn the most points? Which shape was the most difficult to create and why?

Hints for Parents

Many interesting problems arise during this game. Try to articulate what your options are and how you are deciding on your actual moves. Encourage your child to do the same. There are many shapes within shapes, and they all count. Help your child to find the shapes that are hiding.

Extensions

Change the rules to give different values to the shapes. How does this change of rules affect your strategies? How else can you modify the game?

From *Home Connections: Primary Grades*, by Halton District School Board Numeracy Team, 2001. Adapted with permission.

Crazy Quilt Game Sheet

Parallelogram = 1 point

Rectangle = 2 points

Triangle = 3 points

Square = 4 points

