

## Objective

Identify *left* and *right*.

Common Core  
State Standards

- **K.G.1** Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as *above*, *below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to*.

## Geometry

## Left and Right

The relative position of any object can be described using the words *right* and *left*. As with other ways of determining location, such as *inside* and *outside*, *right* and *left* require a reference point. Without something on the right, there is no left. Without something on the left, there is no right. The ability to describe location in terms of left and right is important in building geometric thinking and is especially useful in real life. Using the vocabulary of *right* and *left* will help children describe locations in space.

**Try It!** Perform the *Try It!* activity on the next page.

## Talk About It

Discuss the Try It! activity.

- **Ask:** *How do you know which is left and which is right?* Discuss with children how they remember left and right, for example by using their left and right hands.
- **Ask:** *Can you think of some ways to remember the difference between left and right?* Discuss ways to remember left and right, such as placing the left hand palm down to form the letter *L* with the index finger and thumb.
- **Ask:** *How did you know where to put the yellow and green Color Tiles? How did you know where to put the blue and red tiles?*

## Solve It

With children, reread the problem. Ask children to set a plain piece of paper in front of them. Have them use crayons or markers to draw yellow and green circles to show the paints on the left side. Then ask them to draw red and blue circles on the right side.

## More Ideas

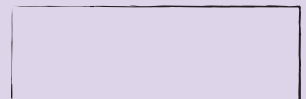
For other ways to teach about *right* and *left*—

- Ask children to separate Frog Counters into two groups. Frogs that are green should go on the left. Frogs that are red should go on the right.
- Have children use two sheets of paper and Attribute Blocks to practice following directions that involve left and right. Children should have two sheets of paper in front of them, one on the right and one on the left. Tell them to put a red triangle on the left sheet of paper, a blue rectangle on the right sheet of paper, and so on.

## Formative Assessment

Have children try the following problem.

*Draw a triangle on the left side of the box.  
Then draw a circle on the right side of the box.*



## Try It! 20 minutes | Groups of 3

Here is a problem demonstrating *right* and *left*.

*After an art project, Mr. Lewis wants the paints to be put away. He wants the green and yellow paints to be put on the left side of the drawer. He wants the red and blue paints to be put on the right side of the drawer. Can you draw how Mr. Lewis wants the paints to be put away?*

Introduce the problem. Then have children do the activity to solve the problem.

Distribute Color Tiles and Attribute Sorting Circles to groups of children.

### Materials

- Color Tiles (several per group with at least 1 of each color)
- Attribute Sorting Circles (2 per group)



**1.** Help children understand the concept of right and left by using the right and left sides of their bodies. **Say:** *Raise your right hand. Now touch your left knee with your left hand.* Make sure children are able to identify left and right correctly.



**2. Say:** *We can use our right hand to help us know when something is on the right side. We can use our left hand to help us know when something is on the left.* Instruct children to place one circle in front of the right of their group and one circle in front of the left of their group.



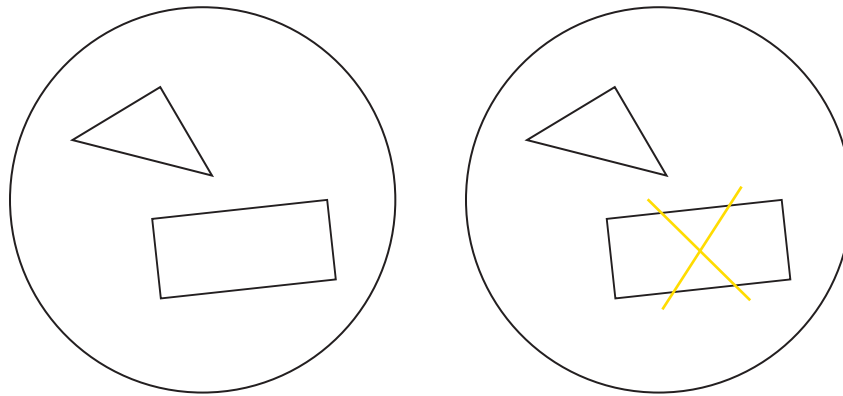
**3.** Invite children to place green and yellow tiles in the left circle. Remind children that this is the circle to the left of their group. Have children place red and blue tiles in the right circle. Remind them that this is the circle to the right of their group.

### Look Out!

If children need extra help remembering right and left, spend some time discussing the importance of right and left in children's everyday life. Point out that we read from left to right, or that the school bus driver sits on the left side of the bus. Look around the classroom and have children practice identifying objects that are on their right or left. Also, point out to children that right/left position is relative to their position.

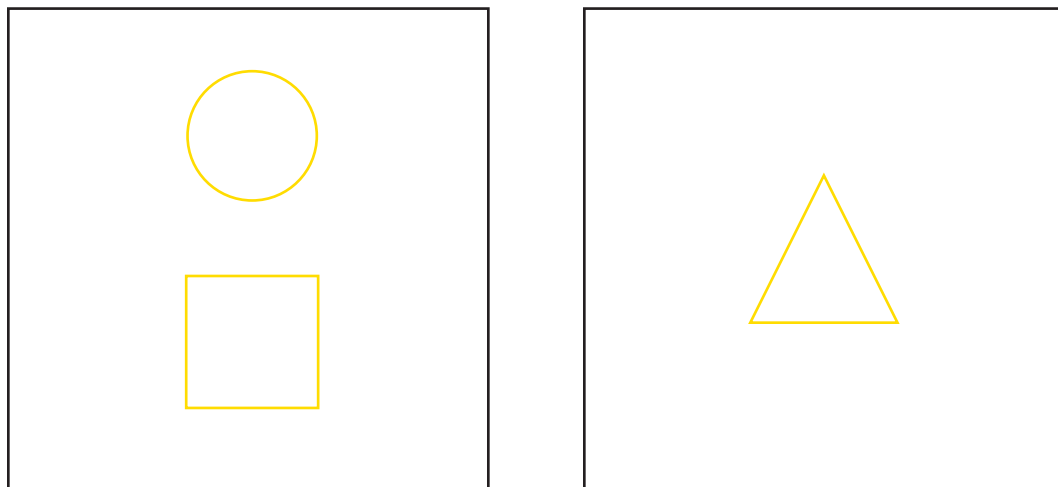


1.



Check children's work.

2.



### Directions

1. Color the triangle in the circle on the left side. Put an X on the rectangle in the circle on the right side. 2. Draw a triangle in the box on the right. Draw a circle in the box on the left. Draw a square in the box on the left.



## Answer Key

Check children's work.

---

### Challenge

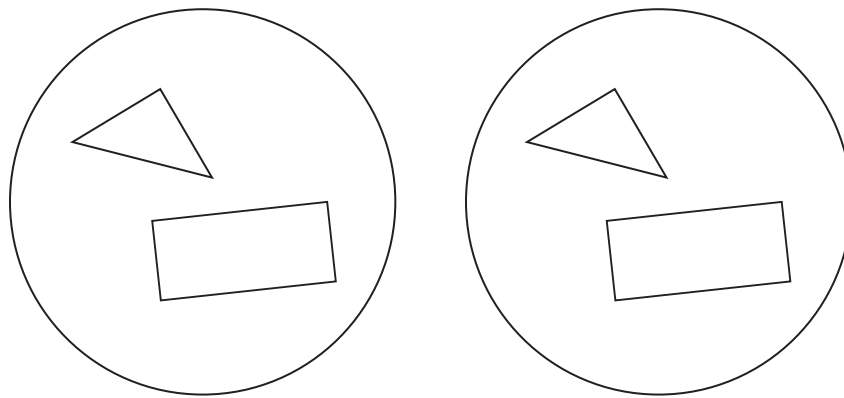
Draw three shapes on the left side of your paper. Color these shapes on the left blue. Draw two shapes on the right side of your paper. Color these shapes on the right red.

© ETA hand2mind™

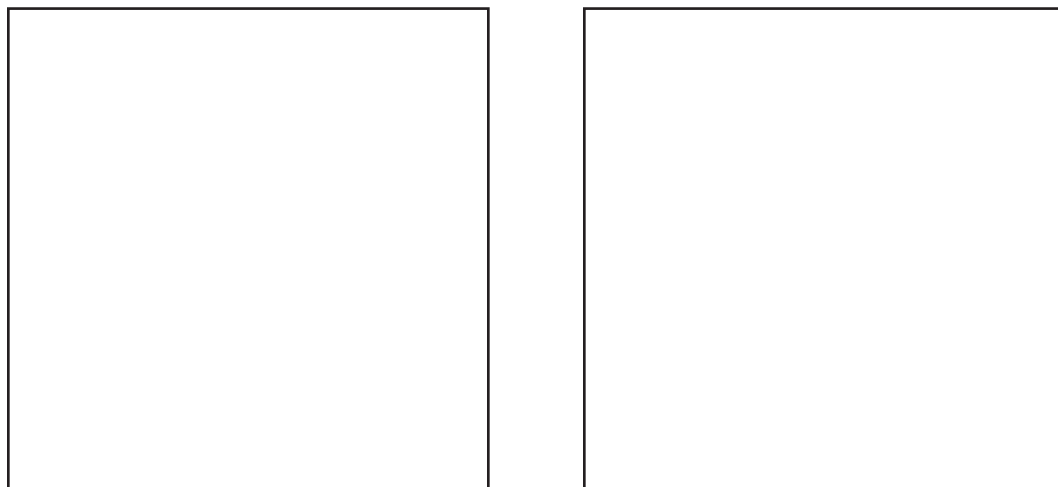


Name \_\_\_\_\_

1.



2.

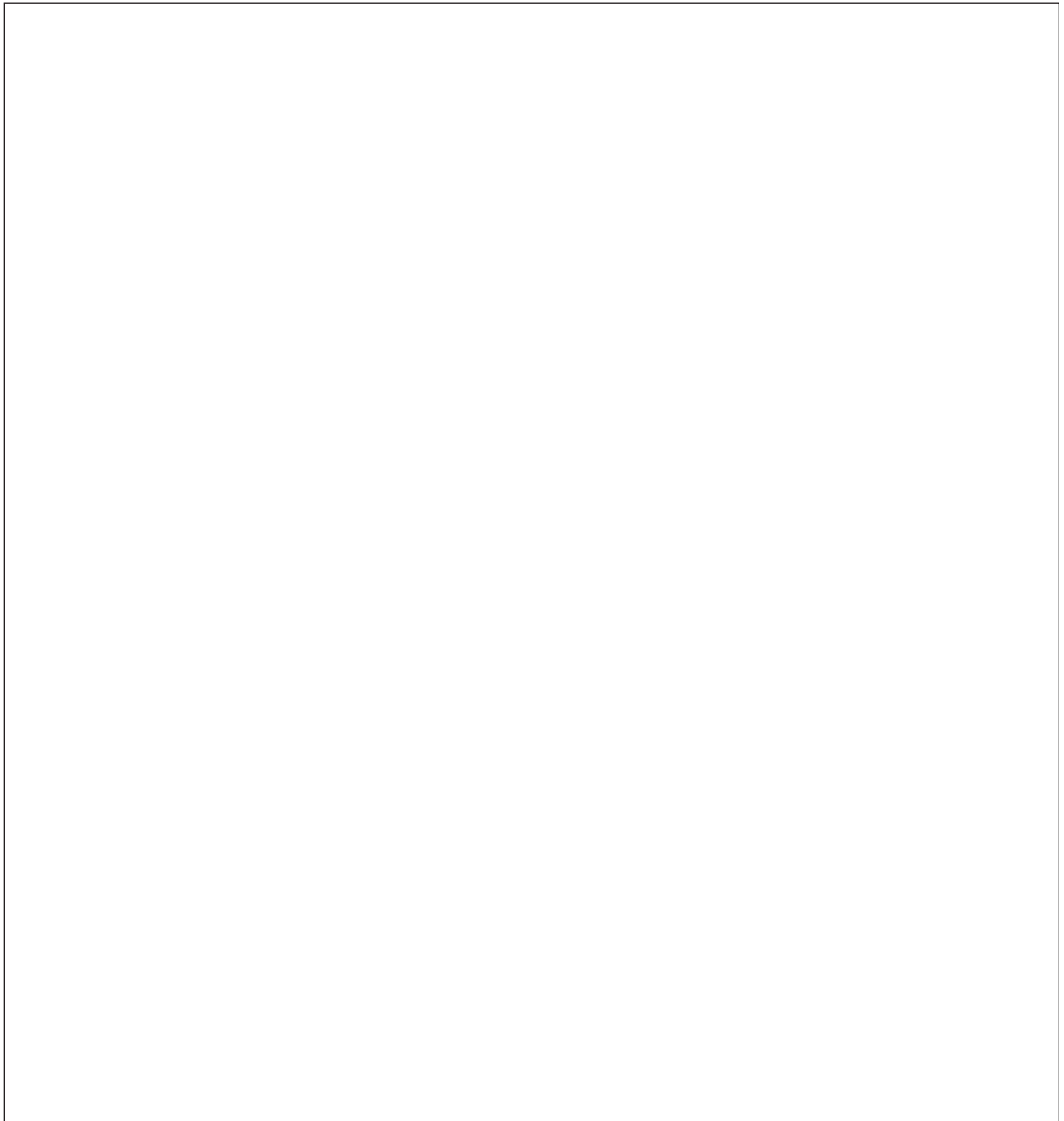


---

**Directions**

**1.** Color the triangle in the circle on the left side. Put an X on the rectangle in the circle on the right side. **2.** Draw a triangle in the box on the right. Draw a circle in the box on the left. Draw a square in the box on the left.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



---

### Challenge

Draw three shapes on the left side of your paper. Color these shapes on the left blue. Draw two shapes on the right side of your paper. Color these shapes on the right red.

© ETA hand2mind™