

Objective

Identify circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles and compare them to real-life objects.

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*.
- **K.G.2** Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientations or overall size.
- **K.G.3** Identify shapes as two-dimensional (lying in a plane, “flat”) or three-dimensional (“solid”).
- **K.G.5** Model shapes in the world by building shapes from components (e.g., sticks and clay balls) and drawing shapes.

Geometry

Plane Shapes and Real-Life Objects

Recognition of basic plane shapes is a fundamental geometry skill. The ability to identify circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles and to compare them to real-life objects helps children to become more familiar with the specific attributes of a variety of plane shapes.

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

Talk About It

Discuss the Try It! activity.

- **Ask:** *How is a roll of tape the same as a circle? Different from a circle?*
- **Say:** *Explain how you know whether or not the things you see are shaped like a circle, square, rectangle, or triangle.*
- **Ask:** *What things are shaped like a circle? Like a square? Like a rectangle? Like a triangle? Can you draw a picture of the shapes?*

Solve It

With children, reread the problem. Give each child four blank sheets of paper and crayons. Have children draw one real-life object for each plane shape.

More Ideas

For other ways to teach about plane shapes—

- Give each pair of children four Attribute Blocks (circle, square, triangle, and rectangle) and an assortment of pictures of real-life objects that are shaped like plane shapes. Have children compare the block shapes to the pictures. Have them identify the real-life objects that are shaped like plane shapes. Then have children sort the pictures and pile them under the matching block shapes.
- Use Attribute Blocks to play a guessing game with children. Hold up a block shape and give children clues about a real-life object in the classroom and have them identify the object. For example, hold up a block rectangle and **say:** *I am shaped like a rectangle and I have pages that you can read. What am I?* (a book)

Formative Assessment

Have children try the following problem.

Color the picture that looks like a circle red. Color the picture that looks like a square yellow. Color the picture that looks like a rectangle green.



Try It! 30 minutes | Groups of 4

Here is a problem about plane shapes and real-life objects.

As Amanda looked around her classroom, she wondered . . . What things that we see are shaped like circles? What things that we see are shaped like squares? What things that we see are shaped like rectangles? What things that we see are shaped like triangles?

Introduce the problem. Then have children do the activity to solve the problem. First, look around the classroom to make sure that there are a variety of objects shaped like circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles. If there are not, then either draw a variety of simple objects on the board or cut pictures of real-life objects out of a magazine or newspaper to display to children. Then distribute Attribute Blocks and Attribute Sorting Circles to each group.

Materials

- Attribute Blocks (2 or 3 of each shape—circle, square, rectangle, and triangle—per group)
- Attribute Sorting Circles (2 per group)



1. Make sure that there is a roll of tape or other common real-life circular-shaped object in the classroom. Have children look at the roll of tape. Then encourage children to examine their blocks. **Ask:** *What shape does a roll of tape look like?* (a circle) Then have children compare the block circle to the roll of tape.



2. Point to a classroom object shaped like a square. Have children find the matching block and compare the block to the object. Have children decide which Sorting Circle is for circles and which is for squares and place blocks to represent objects in the appropriate Sorting Circles. Encourage children to find additional examples of circle- and square-shaped real-life objects. Then have children clear their Sorting Circles.



3. Repeat the activity for rectangles and triangles. Have children find examples of rectangle- and triangle-shaped real-life objects, compare them to the block shapes, and sort the blocks into two Sorting Circles.

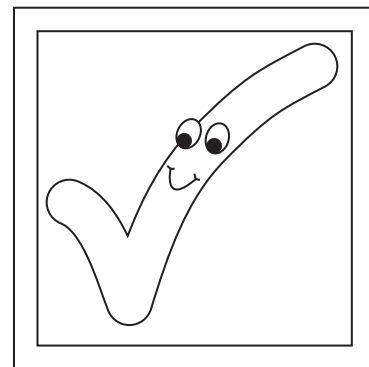
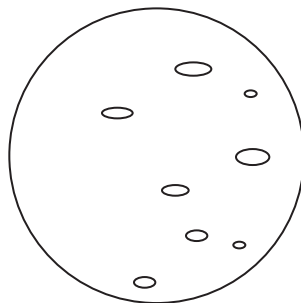
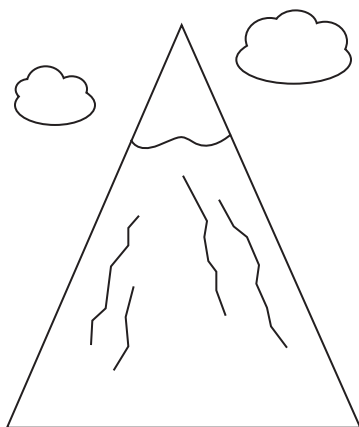
Look Out!

Watch for children who are having a difficult time seeing plane shapes in three-dimensional objects. Ask children questions about number of sides, number of corners, and length of sides. Help children to recognize that although an object is much larger or smaller than the block plane shape, it can still have a similar shape.

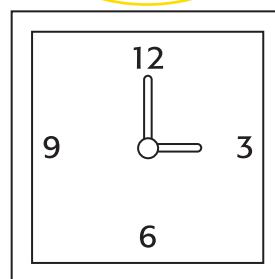
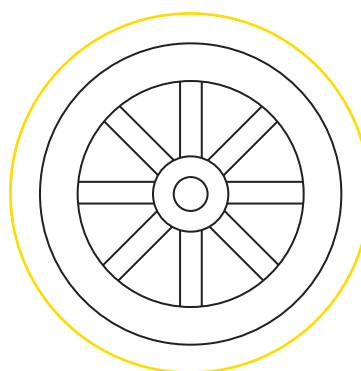
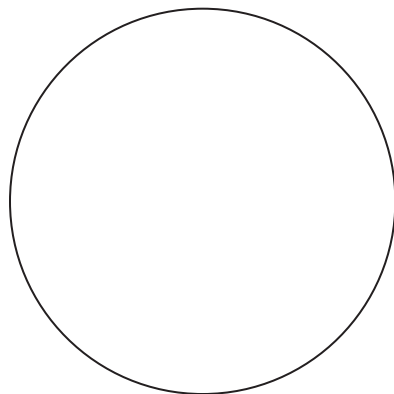


Check children's work.

1.



2.

**Directions**

1. Color the picture that looks like a circle yellow. Color the picture that looks like a square red. Color the picture that looks like a triangle green. 2. Which picture looks like the shape? Circle it.



Answer Key

Check children's work.

Challenge

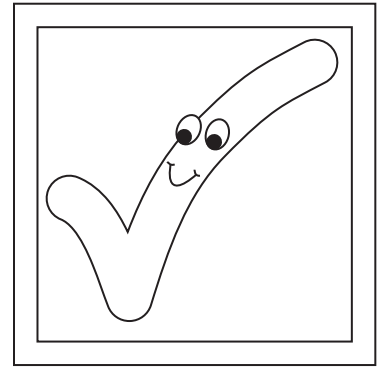
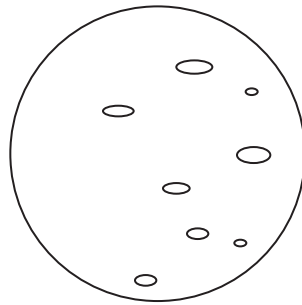
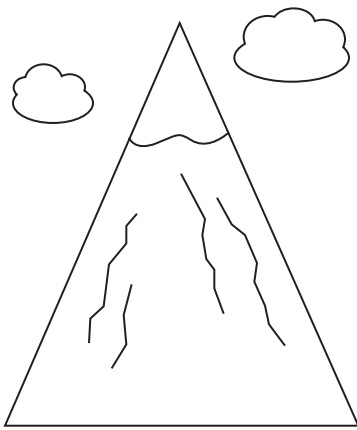
Draw a rectangle. Find something in the room that looks like a rectangle and draw it.

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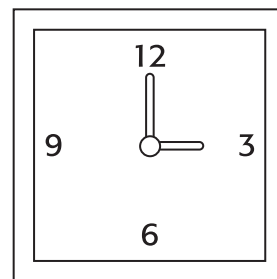
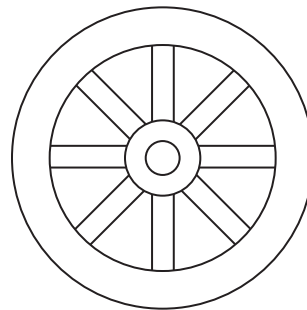
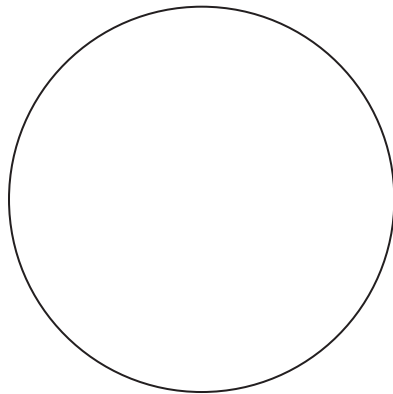


Name _____

1.

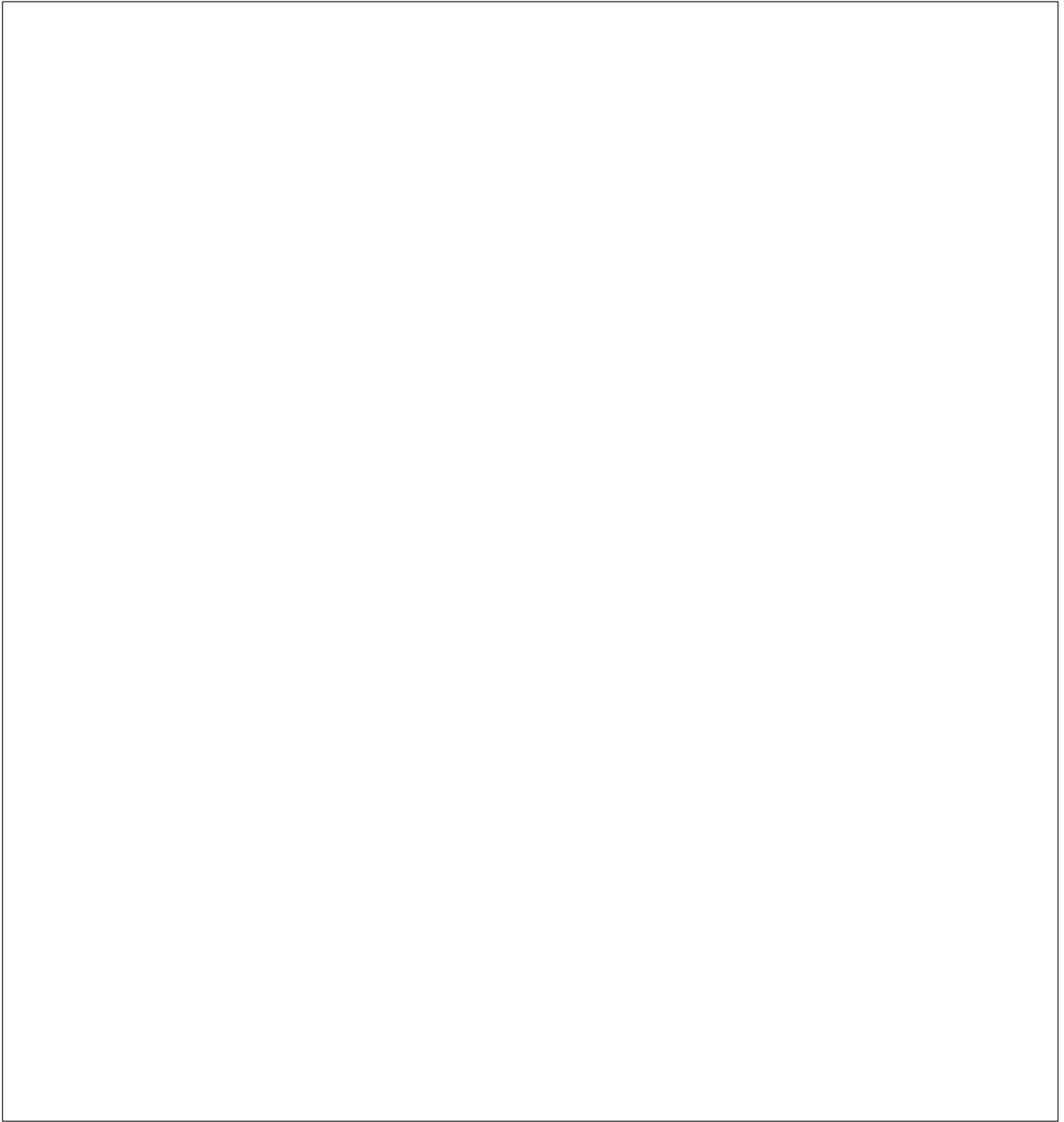


2.

**Directions**

1. Color the picture that looks like a circle yellow. Color the picture that looks like a square red. Color the picture that looks like a triangle green. **2.** Which picture looks like the shape? Circle it.

Name _____



Challenge

Draw a rectangle. Find something in the room that looks like a rectangle and draw it.