

## Shape Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four -Year Olds, 2007

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into our classroom daily routines.

### I. Virginia Science Foundation Block 3: Matter (page 27).

The child will develop language to describe an object's position, movement and physical properties. The child will also describe properties of water.

a) Identify shapes (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle) of an object.

### II. Concepts to be taught:

1. Awareness of shapes in the world around us
2. Shapes come in different sizes, yet it can be the same shape

### III. Ideas for All Shapes

1. Show and Tell: child bring in an object that represents the Shape of the Day
2. Have a "Shape of the Day"
3. Compare sizes: large, medium and small shapes
4. Go on a shape hunt : in the classroom and outside
5. Make the shapes in the air with your hands
6. Make a Shape booklet with a sampling of all the shapes
7. Have a "surprise box" or bag that you can take out samples of the shape you are teaching
8. Shape/Sort table: have items of different shapes on the table and sort the items on to large shapes that is taped on the table .
9. Buried Treasure; Use sand or rice table to hide objects ; use digital camera to take pictures of objects for children to look for  
✚ Good for teaching: waiting and taking turns
10. Lace around each shape : hole punch laminated paper shape and lace yarn or shoelace through the holes.
11. Flip the Shapes booklet from Pre-School Mailbox: Oct/Nov 1994
- 12: Missing Item Game: put shape items in a bag. take everything out then take away one item, children guess which item is missing.
- 13, Sponge paint shapes onto paper: I took Downy and Liquid Tide lids and hot glued different shapes I cut out of new sponges. Makes it easy for children to grip and cleans up easy.

#### IV. Books that can be read:

1. Round & Round & Round by Tana Hoban
2. Circle, Triangles, and Squares by Tana Hoban
3. Ten Black Dots by Donald Crews
4. Wheel Away by Dayle Anne Dodds
5. Brown Rabbit's Shape Book by Alan Baker
6. Alfo-Bets: Book of Shapes by Margery W. Brown
7. My Very First Book of Shapes by Eric Carle
8. The Wing on a Flea : A Book of Shapes by Ed Emberley
9. Fire Engine Shapes by Bruce McMillan
10. Shapes, Shapes, Shapes By Tana Hoban
11. The Shape of Me and Other Stuff by Dr. Seuss
12. It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles G. Shaw
13. Color Farm by Lois Elhert

#### V. Shapes

##### 1. Circle

- Items that are round or circular: cds, records, plates, pot lids, sun, whole pizza pie, pepperoni slices, coins, wheels, steering wheel in car, ball, button and clock .
- Circle food: Pancakes, oranges, cookies , round cereal rings (Cherrios), snack crackers, life saver candy, cut bananas, cut carrots , radish slices, onion slices
- Bubble Circles: Cut out a large white circle and use bingo markers to make circles on the paper in different colors ( write on it : "These circles are bubbles")
- Use bubble wrap to make prints with paint on another circle
- Circle Collage: have many precut circles and have children glue them on their paper any way they choose
- Gumball Circles, Make a paper gumball machine and use bingo markers to make candy circles
- Necklace: use any round cereal to make string on a yarn necklace
- Make paper chains ( rectangle and circles)

##### 2. Triangle

- Items that are triangles: pizza slice, pie slice, cheese wedge, clown hat, volcano, ice cream cone, orange /yellow safety cone, Doritos chips , pine tree, tent, yield sign , ship sail, space ship
- Triangle food: pizza slice, pie slice, ice cream cone, Doritos chips, cheese
- Make a sail boat,
- Make a volcano
- Make a princess hat for the girls with streamers hanging down from the top

### 3. Square

- Square Items: window, cracker, blanket, handkerchief, washcloth, box, TV, slice of bread, blocks, crackers, Sponge Bob Square Pants, houses
- Foods: cookies, crackers, cake square, Trisket cracker, square cereal (shredded wheat, the frosted kind)
- Make Sponge Bob out of yellow paper; add pants and face, arms and legs, or just make his face
- Build with Blocks (large or small)
- Wrap up square packages with bows
- Play with nesting boxes
- Make a square with 4 people holding hands
- Make a paper quilt with square cloth or paper squares laced together with yarn
- Make a picture frame with craft sticks

### 4. Rectangles

- Items that are rectangles; Cereal boxes, Spaghetti boxes, books, a dollar bill, traffic lights, door, a trailer, some traffic signs, football field
- Foods: crackers,
- Compare sizes of boxes
- Make a robot with different size rectangles,
- Postcard Puzzles; take postcard and cut in to 2 or 3 pieces, have children put back together
- Make a horse out of rectangles; See sample in Activity section
- Make a traffic light

### 5. Ovals

- Items that are ovals: eggs, spoons, jellybean, potatoes, racetrack
- Food that are ovals, hard cooked eggs, jellybeans, baked potato
- Cut a potato in half length wise: make potato prints and turn it into something
- Dye eggs
- Sort jellybeans by color then count them before eating them
- Make thumbprint jelly beans in a jar: draw and cut out a paper jar, thumbprint jellybeans

### 6. Diamonds

- Items that are diamonds; baseball diamond, kites, diamond shaped cookies
- Presto Change- glue foil paper to black construction paper, fold in half, but on the fold a triangle: cut a triangle out, base of triangle being the fold
- Make kites and decorate
- Diamond necklaces; using heavy foil, glue on fake jewels, string it on yarn
- Crown of diamonds: Take a strip of paper, glue foil diamonds on and decorate with fake jewels

## 7. Star

- Items that are star shaped: Christmas tree star, a magic wand with a star, star shaped cereal, sea star,
- Food items : make star shaped cookies, or sandwiches
- Take a dark blue or black construction paper and put sticker stars on it
- Glue on colored marshmallows and draw lines with oil pastel crayons or colored chalk between the creations for star constellation
- Do a dot to dot star, then color it

## IV. Resources :

- ✚ Preschool Mailbox Aug/Sept 1996 "Circles" pages 50-51
- ✚ Preschool Mailbox Oct/Nov 1994 "Shapes" pages 24-32
- ✚ Preschool Mailbox Dec/Jan 1996/1997 "Squares" pages 50-51
- ✚ Preschool Mailbox Feb/Mar 1997 "Diamonds" pages 50-51
- ✚ Preschool Mailbox Apr/May 1997 "Rectangles" pages 50-51
- ✚ Preschool Mailbox June/July 1997 "Ovals" pages 50-51
- ✚ Find the Shapes Color Book by Western Publishing Company,1989
- ✚ [www.kizclub.com](http://www.kizclub.com)
- ✚ [www.familyfun.com](http://www.familyfun.com)