

Abstract Animals

Purpose

Students will make abstract animals to practice identifying, comparing, and sorting triangles, rectangles, squares, and circles.

Materials

For the teacher: overhead projector; overhead pieces in the shapes of rectangles, squares, triangles, and circles

For the students: construction paper shape cut outs (enough for each student to have an adequate selection), drawing paper, glue, pencils, copies of Black Line Master (BLM) *Graphing Abstract Animals*

Activity

A. Introduction

1. Inform students that they will be making animals out of shapes.
2. On the overhead projector, use the overhead pieces of shapes to model making an abstract animal.
3. Ask students to count how many triangles, squares, rectangles, and circles you used.
4. Record the number of each shape used (e.g., "I used ____ circles," etc.).

B. Student Activity

1. Have students select between 10 and 15 shapes, being sure they have some of each provided.
2. Direct students to create their abstract animals and glue them on to the drawing paper.
3. Have students label the bottom of the pictures as follows: "I used ____ squares," etc.
4. Have students complete the BLM *Graphing Abstract Animals*.
5. Display students' Abstract Animals on the bulletin board.

connecting
across the
curriculum



English/ Language Arts

Read the book *The Greedy Triangle* by Marilyn Burns. Have students name the different shapes into which the Triangle changes.

INCORPORATING
TECHNOLOGY



Have students use a computer drawing program to make pictures using shapes.

Standards Link
1.4.2

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

After the activity, have cutouts of a square, rectangle, triangle, and circle. Point to each shape and have the student identify them as you ask the following questions:



What shape is this? What is the name of this shape?



How do you tell the difference between a triangle and a square, a circle and a rectangle, etc.?

Name: _____

Graphing Abstract Animals

Color the graph to show how many triangles, squares, rectangles, and circles you used to make your Abstract Animal.

Making an Abstract Animal				
Count	Triangles	Squares	Rectangles	Circles
8				
7				
6				
5				
4				
3				
2				
1				

Write the number sentence that will show how many shapes you used in all.

If you added four more triangles to your animal, how many shapes would you have used in all? _____

Graphing Abstract Animals

Teacher Directions

Distribute the BLM *Graphing Abstract Animals*. Have students use the abstract animals they made to complete the graph and the rest of the page.

Answer Key

Answers will vary.