

## A Sense of Belonging

### Purpose

Students will classify and sort objects by a variety of characteristics and represent their comparisons.

### Materials

*For each student:* 12 shapes of various geometric shape, size, and color  
*For group activity:* several large shapes of various geometric shape, size, and color

### Activity

#### A. Pre-Activity Preparation

Obtain or make geometric shapes of various sizes and colors.

#### B. Individual Activity

1. Divide the shapes somewhat evenly among the students with each student receiving at least 12 shapes.
2. Instruct students to sort the shapes by geometric shape (preferably square, triangle, and circle).
3. After students have sorted the shapes, ask them to determine of which shape they have the most and of which they have the least.
4. Have the students make a table to record this information on a sheet of paper.
5. Instruct students to sort the squares by size (small and large is sufficient).
6. Ask students to determine of which size they have the most and of which they have the least. Ask for a show of hands for the students who have more large squares.
7. Have students sort their entire group of shapes by color (no more than four color variations).
8. After students have sorted shapes, ask them to determine of which color they have the most and of which they have the least and record it on a separate piece of paper.
9. As a large group, ask students to share their data representations and explain what they mean.
10. Provide the students with other characteristics by which to sort their objects.

(continued)

### connecting across the curriculum



#### Science

Rather than using geometric shapes, have students collect objects from nature such as twigs, leaves, acorns, flowers, etc. Use other characteristics such as roundness (does it roll?) and flexibility (does it bend?) for sorting purposes.

### MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS



Some students may have difficulty with this activity. Place these students in small groups of 3 or 4 students. Have each group prepare a data representation of their objects to share with the class.

**Standards Links**  
K.1.2, K.1.8, K.4.1, K.4.2

**Activity (continued)** 

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**C. Group Activity**


1. Using large representations of the shapes the students have, select three that share a common characteristic and one that does not (can be color or shape).
2. Display the shapes for the class to see.
3. Ask students which object does *not* belong. Allow one student to replace the incorrect object with an object that *does* belong to the group.
4. Repeat activity several times, asking different students to assist you.


**Questions for Review** 


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**Basic Concepts and Processes**

During the activity, discuss the following as well as those listed in the activity with your students to gauge their understanding of the Standard Indicator:

 Show me a [*insert shape*].

 How did you go about sorting your shapes?

 Which shape do you have the most/least of?

 Why does this object not belong?

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