



Steppin' Outdoors: Nature Shapes

This month when you get outdoors, explore the shapes that you find outdoors! Nature is a wondrous place full of shapes, patterns and colors.

Grade range

Fun for the whole family!

What can I find?

Exploring the outdoors is an effective way to work on math skills by identifying shapes and patterns in the world around us. Sometimes, you'll be able to find perfect shapes hidden in nature. Shapes can be found in two dimensional (2D) and three dimensional (3D) forms. The most 2D shapes are flat and include circles, squares, triangles, diamonds, rectangles and ovals. 3D shapes are solid shapes. Common 3D shapes include cone, sphere, cylinder, cube and pyramid.



Find nature's shapes!

Gather materials

- Piece of paper
- Pencil
- [Shape activity page](#)

Try it out!

1. Get outdoors and observe the world around you.
2. Identify shapes in the environment and record them on the included [Shape Activity Page](#).

Think it over

- What was the most common shape you found?
- Did you see more 2D shapes or 3D shapes?
- What was your favorite part in this activity?

- What would you do differently next time?

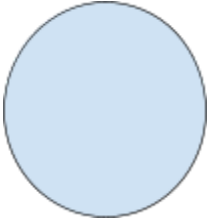





Take it further

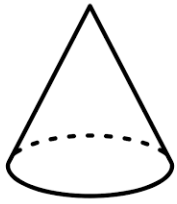
- Design and build a symmetrical bug using materials found outside.
- Take pictures of the different shapes found in nature and make your own shape book.
- Use the shapes you found to help inspire you to paint a picture!
- Get family involved! If you have a younger sibling, challenge them to find a certain number of objects, such as 3 sticks, 4 red leaves, and 5 acorns.
- Grab a bag and pick up litter. Then explore the different shapes (and materials) found in your bag of litter. You could even clean up the litter and use a glue gun to make a sculpture out of it!

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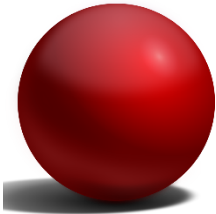
This lesson is part of [Steppin' Outdoors Activity Guides](#).

Shape Activity Page

<i>Shape</i>	<i>Object in nature</i>
 <p><i>Circle</i></p>	
 <p><i>Square</i></p>	
 <p><i>Triangle</i></p>	
 <p><i>Diamond</i></p>	
 <p><i>Rectangle</i></p>	
 <p><i>Oval</i></p>	



Cone



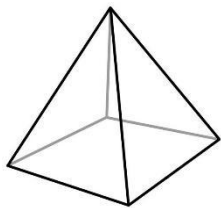
Sphere



Cylinder



Cube



Pyramid