

# Shapes in Nature



Students will examine natural objects to discover shapes.

## Objectives:

Students will be able to name three different shapes and identify at least three Everglades plants and/or animals that contain those shapes.

## Materials:

Alphabet cards included in this guide, copies of the Shapes Sheet and Tally sheet contained in this activity, scissors, and a clipboard.

## Methods:

Play the game as you would "I Spy!"

## Subjects:

Math, Art, Science

## Duration:

30 to 45 minutes

## Location:

Classroom and outdoors.

## Related Activities:

Everglades ABC's, Mangrove Island, Circle Round and Round

## Florida Sunshine State Standards:

SC.G.1.1.1 SC.H.1.1.1



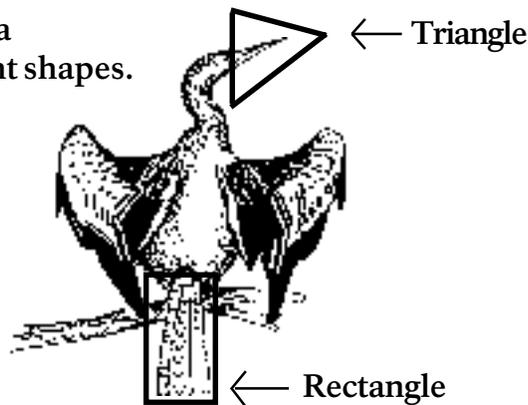
## Background

Plants, animals, earth formations, and the human body are made up of different shapes. Looking for shapes helps students observe similarities and differences between themselves and the environment, and helps them recognize different types of shapes. Before leaving the classroom, define the terms **similar** and **different**. For example; mammals and birds are similar because the majority of them have legs and feet; however, they are different in that mammals have hair or fur while birds have feathers.



Have students look at the palms of their hands. Have them tell you how many shapes they can find. Were they able to find similar and different shapes? Explain to the students that just as they can find shapes on themselves, that there are shapes and patterns in nature.

Anhinga  
Note different shapes.



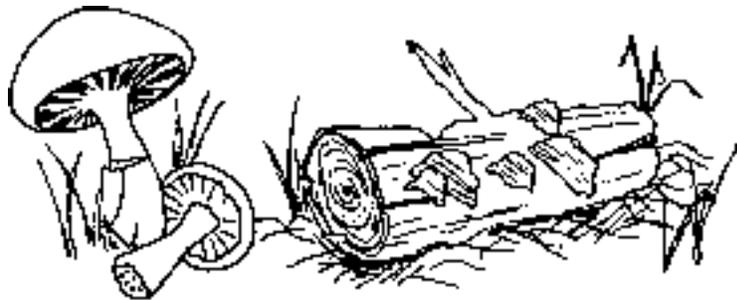
## Procedure

1. Give each student one Everglades alphabet card and one shape. Have them locate their shape on the picture card. If they don't find their shape, have them work with a classmate sharing picture cards. Be sure to use both plant and animal picture cards.
2. After the students have located shapes in the alphabet cards, take them for a walk outside.
3. As you walk say, "I spy something in nature that is round." (Call out any shape, but the circle may be the easiest for First Graders to spot.) The first student to raise their shape up gets to respond and guess what it is you've spied. If the student found what it was that you spied, have the child go to the object, if it is

reachable, and match their shape with the object. If the student has found a different object, have him go to the object he has seen and compare his shape with it, for a match. After that match has been made, record the information on the tally sheet. If necessary, give your students clues as to what it is that you spied. Start with color, then living or non-living, then location... Continue the activity, looking for a variety of shapes. Record all information on the tally sheet.

### Extension

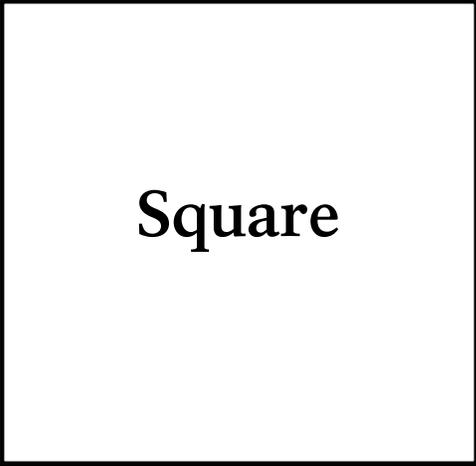
Have the students sit in a circle or semi-circle. Review some of the shapes you found. Ask students how different shapes might help plants and animals to survive. Shape and color can help an animal blend in with its environment (camouflage). Plant shapes such as flowers (oval shapes), may attract pollinators including butterflies, birds, moths, and bees. Cocoplum, a common shrub found in hammocks and bayheads in the Everglades, has a rounded leaf, (circle shape). Tree shapes may provide space and shelter for animal homes. A tree branch (rectangle shape), may have a bird's nest. A tree trunk with a hole in it (a circle or oval shape) may be the entrance for a squirrel or an owl's home. Shapes in nature are all around. Throughout the year encourage students to continue to look for shapes in nature.



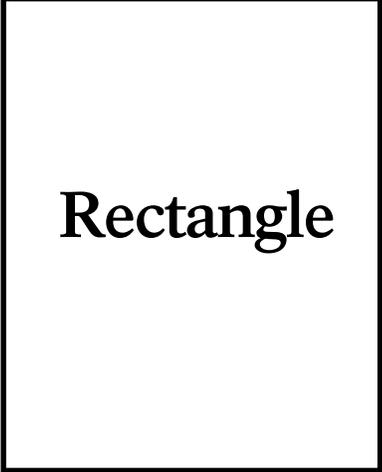
## Important Words

Similar  
Different  
Camouflage  
Pollinator  
Circle  
Oval  
Square  
Rectangle  
Triangle  
Diamond

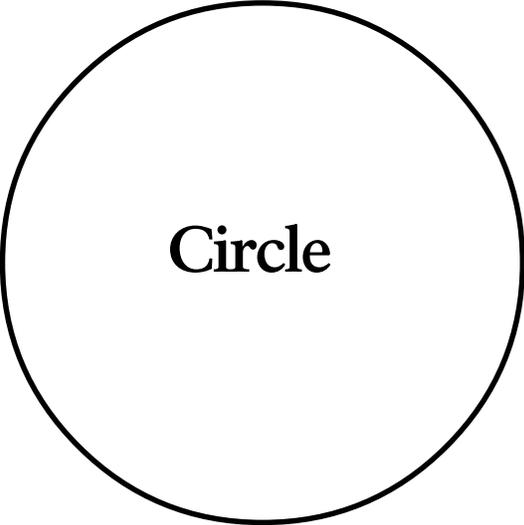
# Shapes Sheet



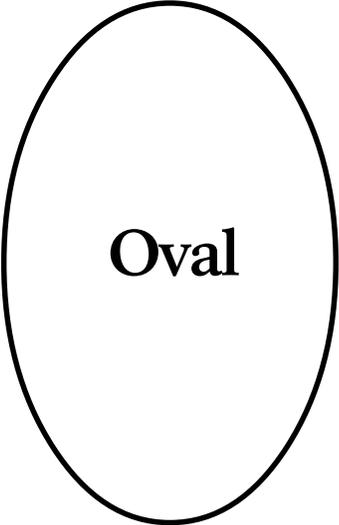
Square



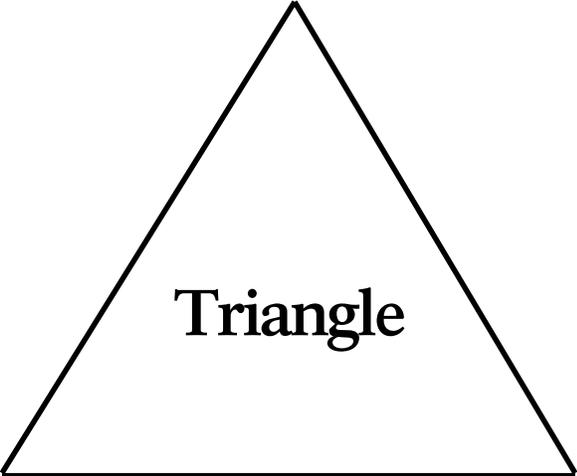
Rectangle



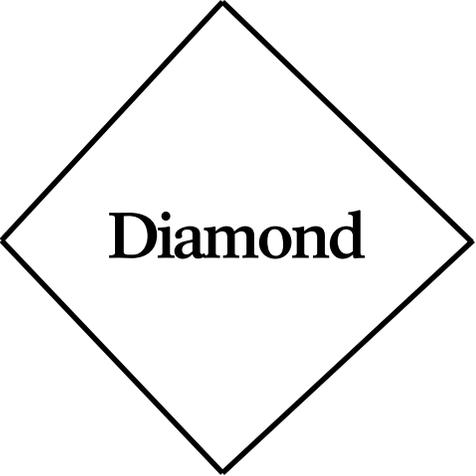
Circle



Oval



Triangle



Diamond

# Tally Sheet

Shape	Object in Nature
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.