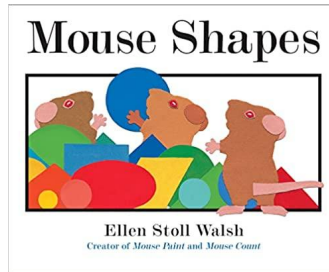


Mystery Shapes



Task

The mice used shapes to create pictures. Create your own picture using pattern blocks. See if your partner can create your picture from the directions you give them.

Standards and Learning Targets

Standard K.G.1 Describe objects in the environment using names of shapes, and describe the relative positions of these objects using terms such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to.

Standard K.G.2 Correctly name shapes regardless of their orientations or overall sizes.

Learning Target: Describe objects using names of shapes and relative positions.

Lesson Outline

Anticipate: Before you begin this lesson, be sure to anticipate the misconceptions your students might have about attributes of shapes using the [Picture Book Problem Monitoring Chart](#).

Launch: Read aloud *Mouse Shapes* by Ellen Stoll Walsh. As you read, discuss the pictures the mice create and how they made it. For example, the mouse says, “Here is a square. A triangle on top makes it a perfect house for a little mouse.” After reading the book, show students the pattern blocks. Name each of the shapes.

Create and hide a simple picture using the pattern blocks. Give students directions to create the same picture. For example, you could create a rocket ship. Tell students to

get two orange squares. Put one orange square above the other orange square. Then put a triangle above the two squares. Now put a blue rhombus next to the top orange square and a blue rhombus next to the other side of the same orange square. Reveal your picture. See if students created the same picture.

Explore: Give students time to create their pictures. It is a good idea to limit the number of shapes students can use as they begin this task, then let them use however many they want. Once students created their picture, cover it with a sheet of paper. Then have them explain how they made their picture to a partner.

Summarize: Discuss the pictures students made and the shapes they used. Talk about relative position words in the standard and create an anchor chart.

Extension Idea: Give students parameters, such as you must use at least 3 different shapes, at least 10 shapes etc.

Thank you for using one of our Picture Book Tasks! We would love to know more about your students' strategies when solving the problem, ideas you had for improving the task, and other math problems you and your students noticed or wondered about after reading the book.

Please complete our [Picture Book Task Survey](#) so that we can learn more about your experience teaching, how students solve problems, and improve our Picture Book Task Bank.