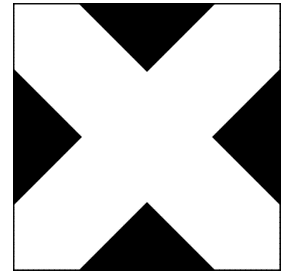


Elements of Art: Shape

The elements of art are the basis from which artists create their artwork. Shape is defined as a two-dimensional area with a recognizable boundary. Shapes can be seen in more than one way:

- A figure is a shape that appears to be on top of the background shapes; it stands out.
- A ground is a shape that seems to be underneath or surrounding a figure.
- An organic shape is found in nature. They tend to be irregular and sometimes their edges and surfaces are relatively straight or flat, but are never perfect. Sometimes they are curved, but never perfectly round like a circle or sphere.
- A geometric shape is found in things made by people, such as buildings and bridges. Their edges and surfaces are straight or perfectly curved.



1. Example of how we see a pattern as two shapes: **figure and ground**. The white is the ground and appears to be underneath and surrounding the black figure.

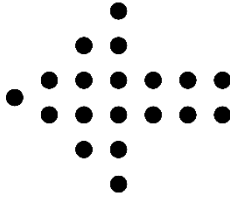
Depending on the pattern, the figure and ground can be seen as two patterns. You can reverse the figure and the ground.

Looking at example #1, is it an X or four pyramids? Artists use the terms positive shape—to refer to a figure—and negative shape to refer to a ground. The terms identify which pattern you're looking at.

Check out the activities to explore shape and create using this element of art.

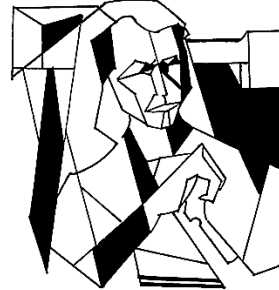
Identify Activity

1. Identify the following (circle one):



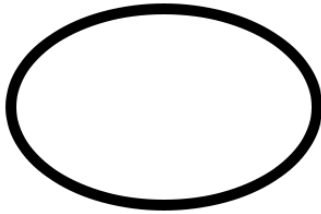
- A boat
- An arrow
- A bridge

2. Identify the following (circle one):



- A man or woman
- Black and white shapes
- Both A and B

3. Identify the following (circle one):



- An ellipse
- A football
- Both A and B

4. Identify the following (circle one):



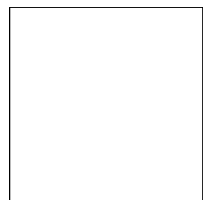
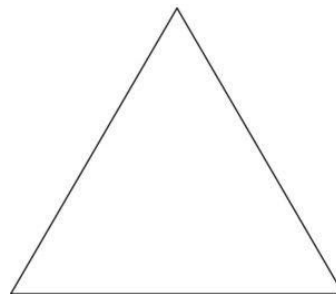
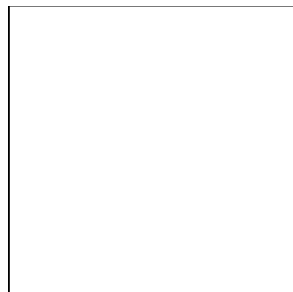
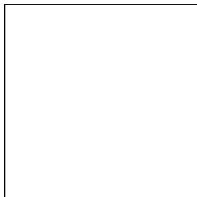
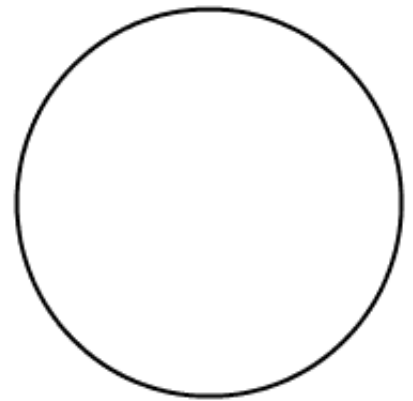
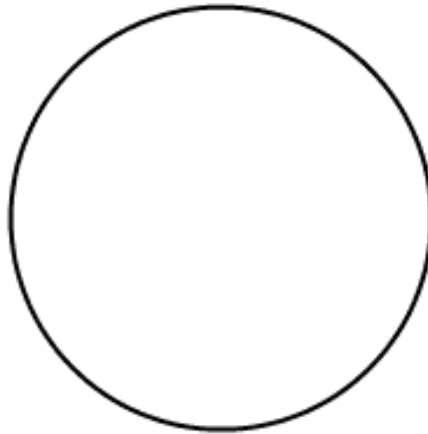
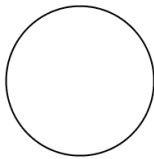
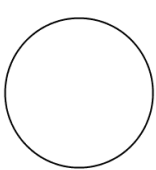
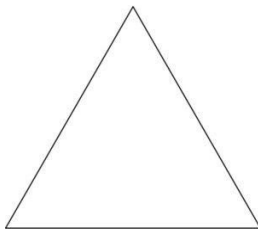
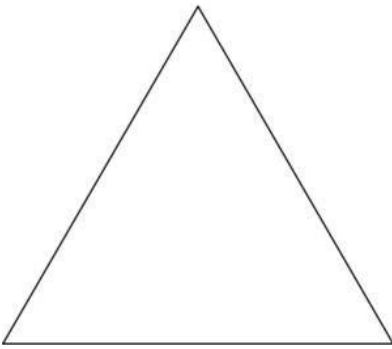
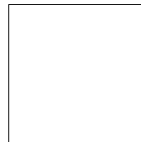
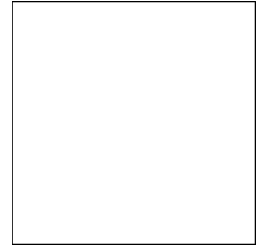
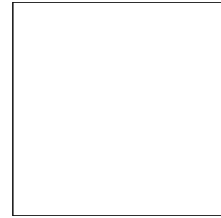
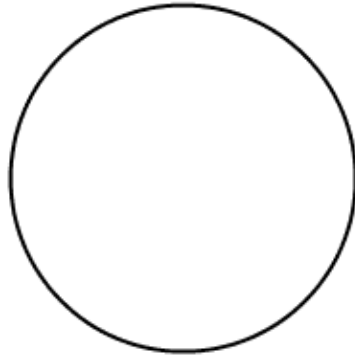
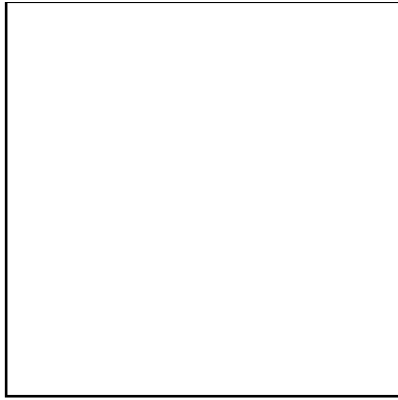
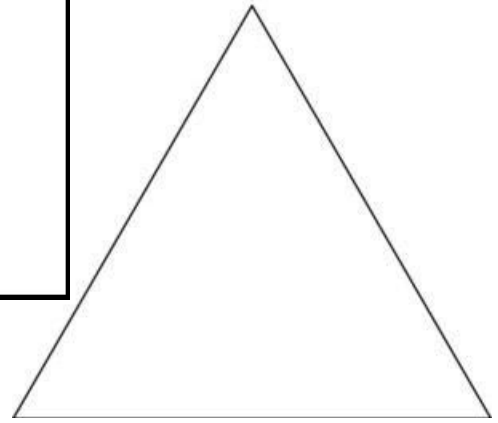
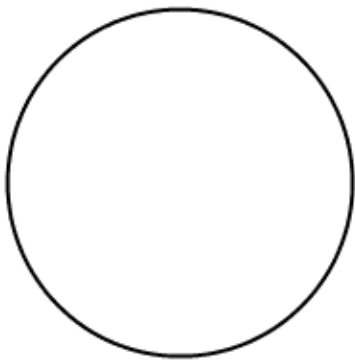
- A male
- A female
- Both A and B

Create Activity:

Create your own artwork using the shapes on the template.

Supplies: Glue, scissors, coloring pencils, crayons, markers, paper.

1. Cut out the shapes on the template or cut out your own shapes.
2. Organize them into an abstract creation or challenge yourself to create something with the shapes, like a house or flowers.
3. Color in the shapes or add fun patterns to them.
4. Then assemble the shapes and glue them down.
5. On a blank paper, create a background for your shapes.



Shape Template

Cut them out to begin creating.

