

Pattern Blocks Set 1

Puzzles with Color

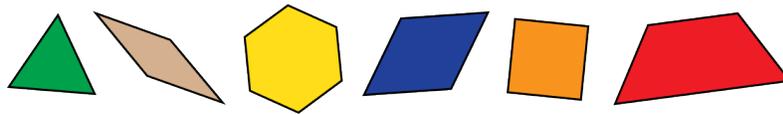
Players 1+ Ages 3+ 5 min+

GOAL

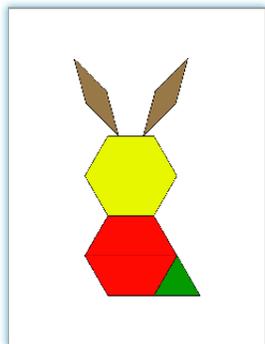
Fill in the puzzle with pattern blocks.

MATERIALS

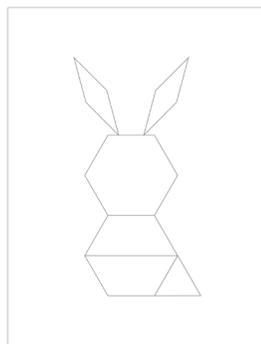
Pattern Blocks or paper shape cutouts



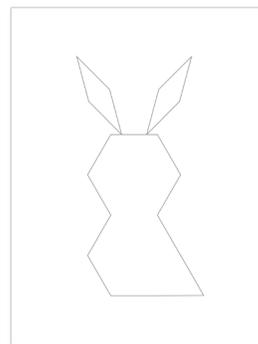
For this game, use puzzle templates from Set 1:



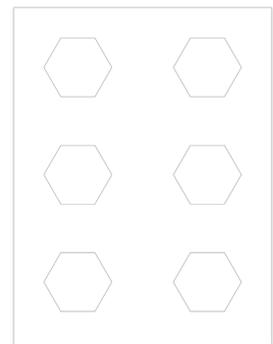
Set 1: Color Puzzles



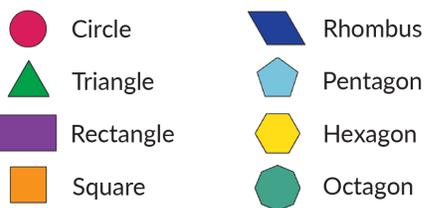
Set 2: Shape Puzzles



Set 3: How Many Ways?



VOCABULARY



Shape Attributes

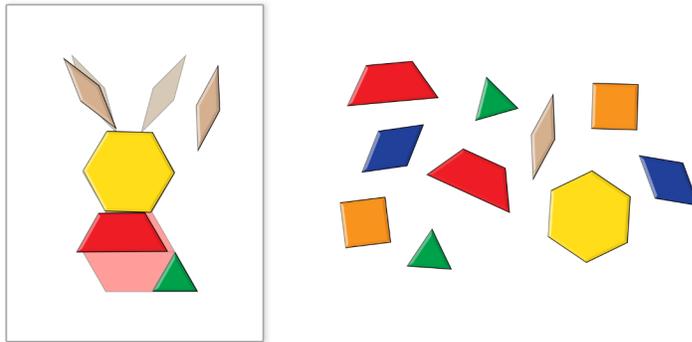
QUESTIONS

How did you know which piece to place there?

Could you have filled that shape in a different way?

HOW TO PLAY

1. Each child chooses a puzzle template.
2. Make sure the children have enough pattern blocks to cover their puzzle(s).
3. Have children place pattern blocks on top of each shape of the puzzle until the puzzle is completely assembled.



TIPS FOR PLAYING

- Give children time to build their own designs with the pattern blocks as well as use the templates.
- Place the pattern blocks in a large open container, such as the top of a box, to help keep them on the table instead of on the floor.
- When children first begin, they may not place the blocks into the outlines precisely. As they gain experience, they may become more precise in placing their pattern blocks within the lines.

WHAT CHILDREN ARE LEARNING

- Observing children as they play with pattern block puzzles is a great way to see their spatial reasoning skills develop. Spatial reasoning is our ability to think about objects and shapes and to move them around into new and different positions.

- As children work on their puzzle templates, talk about the shapes that they're using. This will give them lots of opportunities to learn shape names and attributes. As you talk about the shapes, notice which attributes children seem interested in - color, size, number of sides, length of sides, etc.
- Help children learn to identify shapes even as the orientation of the shape changes. An 'upside down' triangle is still a triangle, and a square tilted on its corner is still a square!
- As children hear and gain practice using the vocabulary of shapes, you can point out similarities and differences in vertices or angles*, number of sides, and length of sides. You can also use measurement words like same/equal, more/less, and shorter/longer.

* A note about the vocabulary: A vertex (plural vertices (vur·tuh·seez)) is where two sides meet. An angle is the space between where two lines meet. Angles are usually measured in degrees. For example, a square has four vertices and four 90° angles.

MATH TOPICS

Patterns and Structure

Shapes and Geometry

VIDEO



Watch Game Video

View the QR code in your smartphone's camera app or QR code reader to watch a video that shows how to play Puzzles with Color.