

FACT SHEET

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L-748

SHAPES AND COLOR

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Play is to the child what work is to the adult. Help your child learn new things through play. Using different shapes and sizes and color can make learning fun. Make these shapes of heavy paper, cardboard, or plywood, and color them.

CIRCLES

Make circles of three different sizes: 2 inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches wide. They must be big enough so a child cannot swallow them. From the primary colors, red, yellow, and blue, cut at least three each of all sizes.

Using the Circles

Hand the child a circle and say, "Here is a red circle" or whatever color it is. He will probably hand it back to you. When he does, say, "Thank you for the red circle." Always repeat the color and shape. The toddler isn't ready to learn shapes and color but the game gets him ready.

For another game, in an oatmeal boxtop cut a slot long enough for the circles to go through. Show the child how the circles disappear through the slot. Let him drop circles through it. This game teaches coordination.

For 3 - 6 Year Olds

Mix the sizes and colors together. Pick out one color circle, say the color and ask the child to put all circles matching this one in a pile. Repeat with other colors. Count the circles in a pile. At first, count with the child; then as he progresses let him count them. Count the big circles, the little circles and the middle-sized circles. Help the child find other circular things.

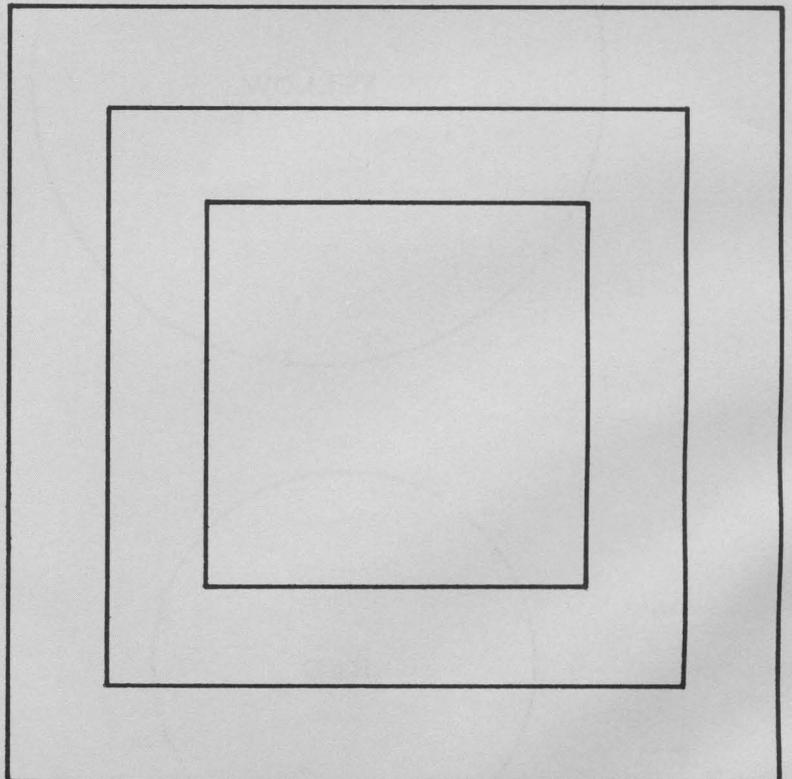
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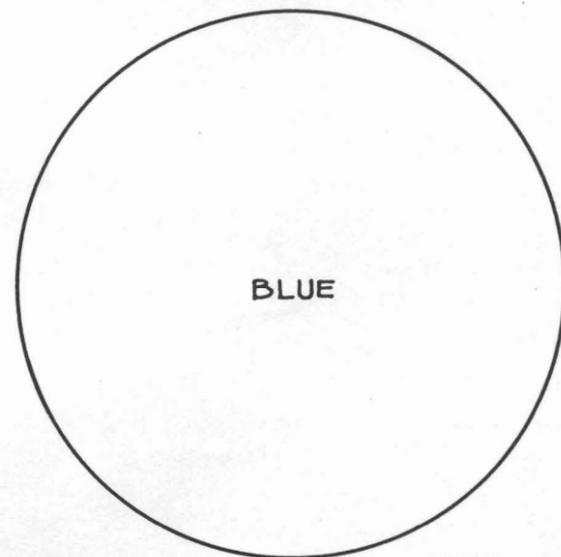
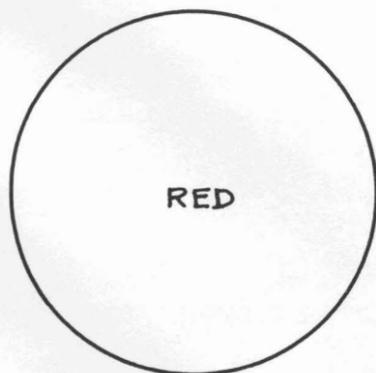
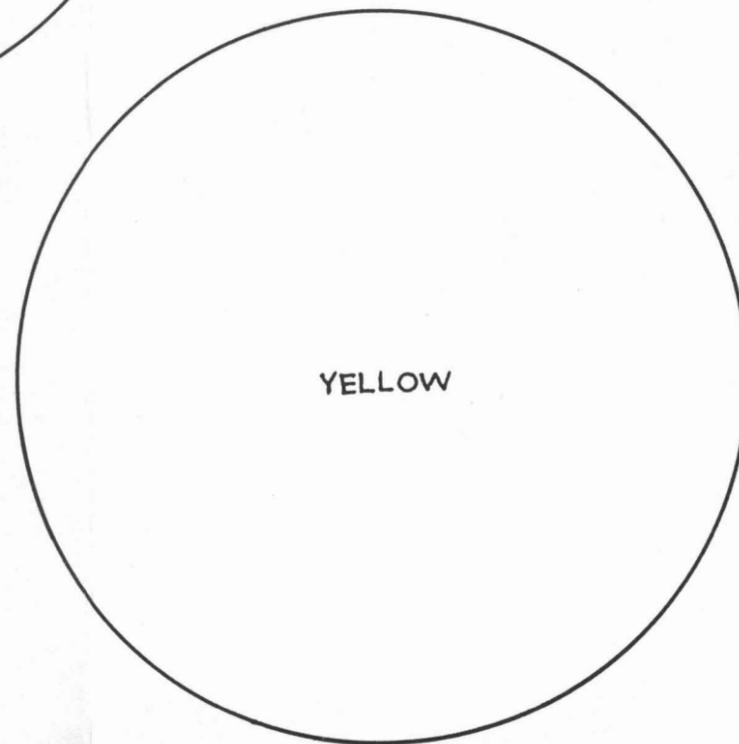
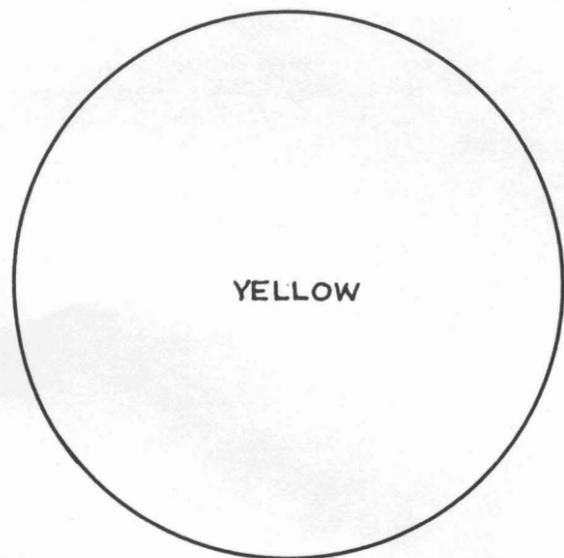
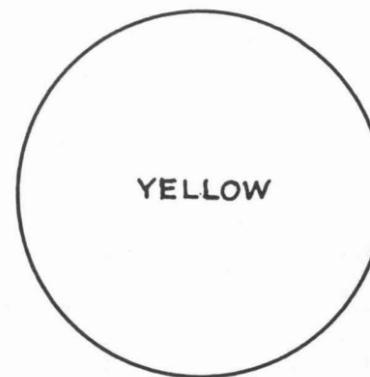
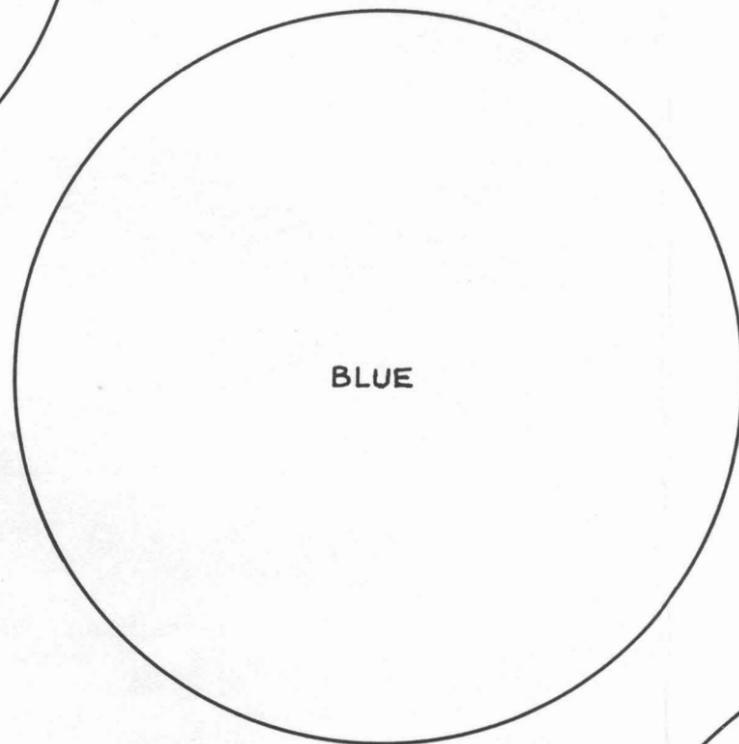
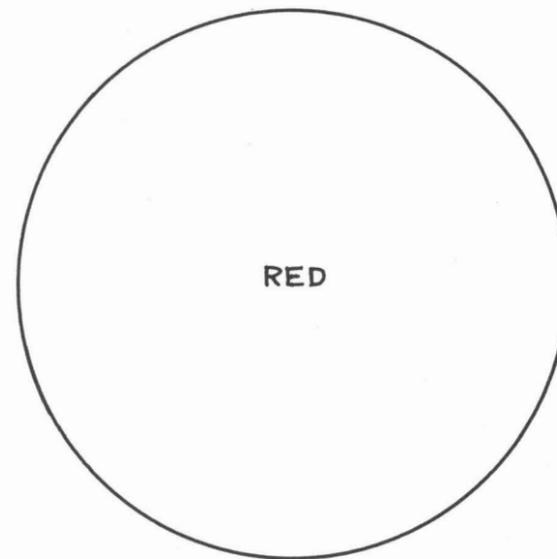
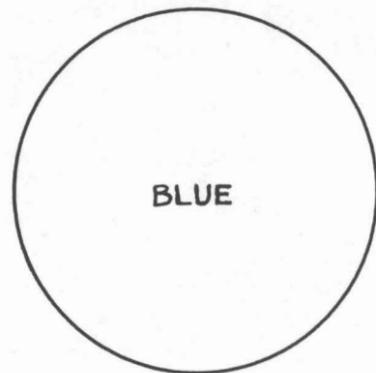
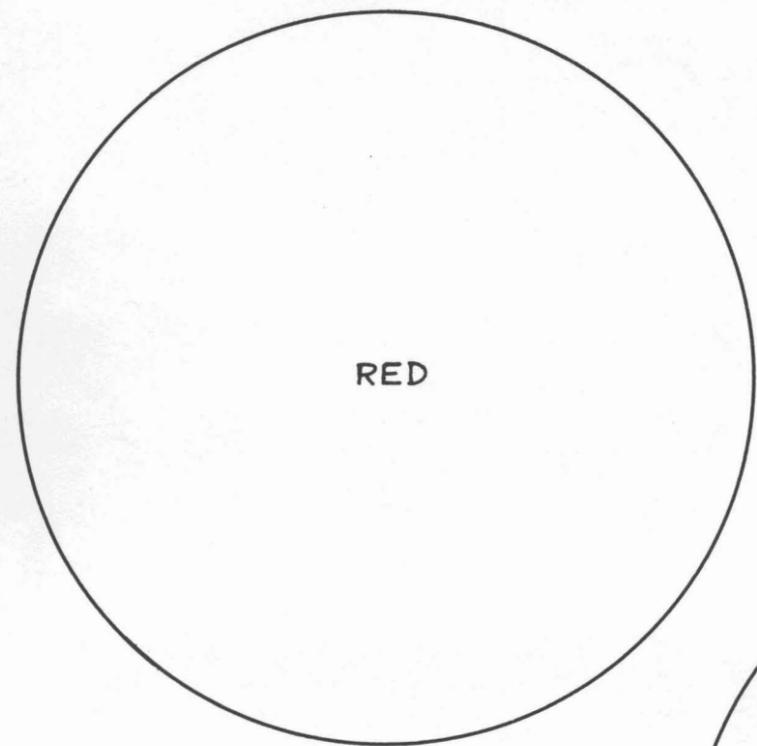
Ask the child to put the little circles in a row, the middle-sized circles in a row and the big circles in a row. Which row is the longest, shortest, middle-sized? How many circles in the shortest row? Longest row? Middle-sized row?

SQUARES

Make squares of three different sizes: 2 inches, 3 inches, and 4 inches. Cut at least 3 each from red, blue and yellow. Play the same games as with the circles.

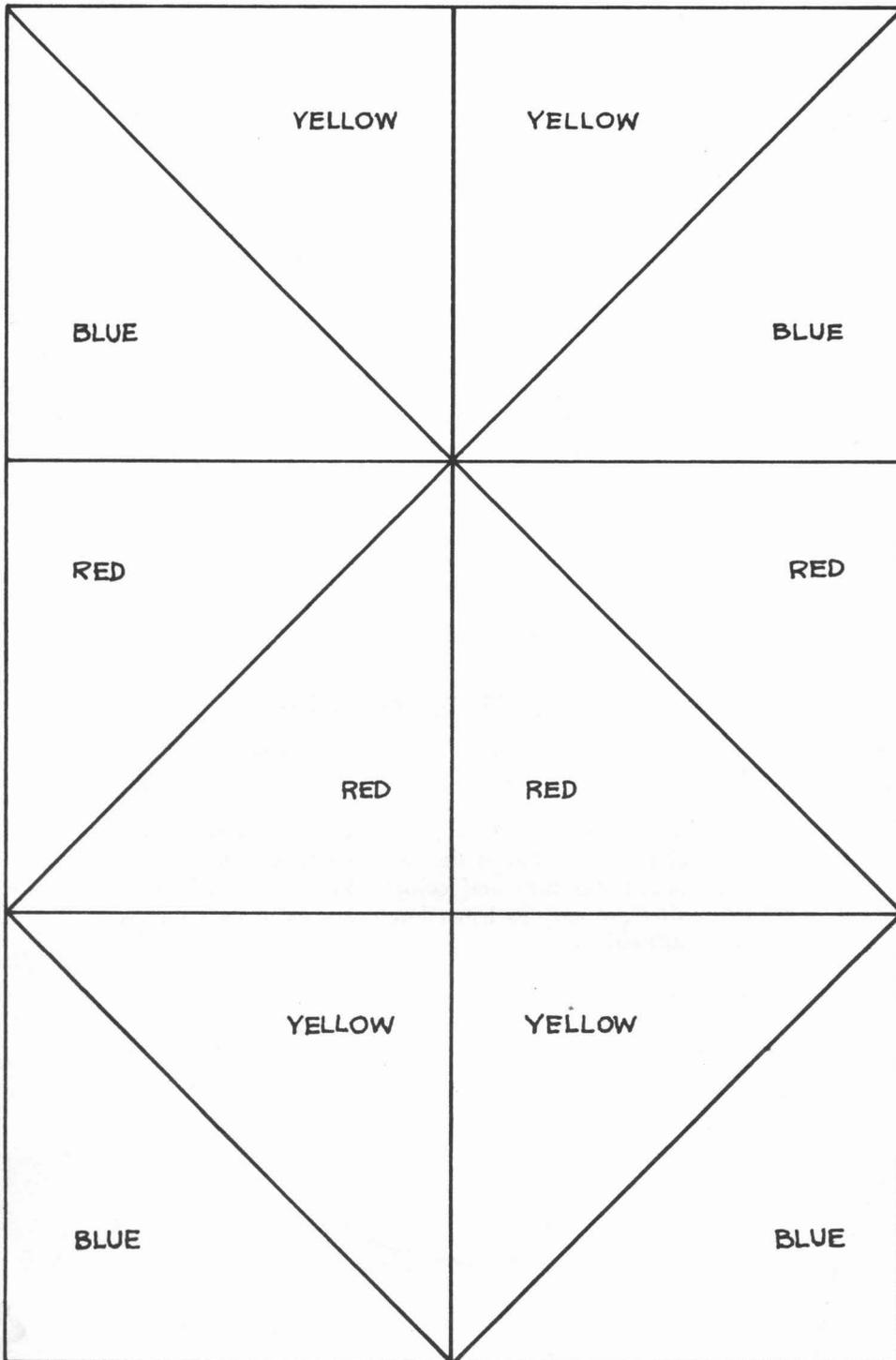
From squares, progress to triangles.





A MATCHING GAME

Cut circles to match the chart, one big, a middle-sized and a small circle of each primary color. Color the circles on the chart red, blue and yellow. Show the child how to put a cut-out circle on a chart circle that is the same size and color. Talk about the sizes and colors. The large and small sizes are easy to learn but the middle-sized one is difficult.



TRIANGLES

Make two squares $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from each primary color. Cut them again to make triangles. Color the triangles on the chart with crayons. Do not cut them out. Show the child how to put a cut-out triangle on the chart triangle of the same color. Let the child know you are pleased when he tries.

Show the child how to make houses and other things out of the triangles and squares.

References: PA-742 Learning Different Shapes, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and PA-713 Fun with Circles, U. S. Department of Agriculture.