

The Shape of Things

Verbal Hands-On

A. This is a verbal hands-on problem. You have 1 minute to select the five team members who will compete. The others must sit and watch or leave the room. They may not participate in any way. (*At the Spontaneous Fair, ALL team members participate*)

B. Judge Reads to Team:

1. You have 1 minute to think and 5 minutes to respond. You may ask the judges questions; however, time will continue. You cannot talk to each other at any time.
2. You will receive 1 point for each common response and 3 points for each creative response.
3. **You will take turns in sequence. You may not skip a turn. If one team member is stuck, the entire team is stuck.** Once time begins, it will not be stopped, even if the judge asks you to repeat a response, clarify it, or give a more appropriate response. Speak loudly and clearly.
4. In the center of the table are various shapes. You may not destroy or damage these shapes in any way, or your team will incur a 5 point penalty. **Your problem is to create a picture/object from two or more of the shapes and then say something about the picture/object.** For example, you could put a right triangle and a rectangle together, and say “This is a sailboat.”
5. **Repeat numbers 1 thru 4.**

For Judges Only:

- a. Ask the coaches to select a team to judge. Hand them a score sheet and a pencil – indicate that these can be thrown away afterwards. Hand them an instruction sheet and a For Judges Only – indicate that these must be returned.
- b. Have a copy of the instruction sheet on each table/set of desks for the teams to read along.
- c. For yourself, have an instruction sheet, and a For Judges Only sheet.
- d. On each table or set of desks, have index cards cut into the following shapes (in different sizes, but all on the large side): 3 right triangles, 3 isosceles triangles, 3 rectangles, 3 squares, 3 circles, and 3 ovals.
- e. Be sure to give 1 minute of think time, and 5 minutes of response time.
- f. Score 1 point for each common response; 3 points for each creative response.
- g. Examples of common responses:
 - i. Two or more shapes with no real object created:: ‘This is a circle with a square’; ‘this is a square with a rectangle’; etc.
 - ii. Two or more shapes with object created, but nothing creative about response:: ‘This is a person’; ‘this is a boat’; etc.
- h. Examples of creative responses:
 - i. Two or more shapes with object created, and creative response::create a baseball bat and then say in funny voice “I oughtta hit you out of the park!”, create a sailboat “I am Christopher Columbus and I want to use this boat to find a trade route to China!”, create a person and say “I am Cinderella – will you be my Prince Charming?”
 - ii. Three or more shapes in a really intricate design::landscape with a castle, a boat with a fisherman catching fish, etc.
 - iii. Two or more shapes where the shapes overlap another shape to create a new shape::put an isosceles triangle overlapping an oval and say “this is rocket taking off and going to the moon.”
- i. After the problem is complete, here are some suggested teaching points:
 - i. Speed vs. intricate designs – what do you think? Is there a strategy?
 - ii. Inspiration – where could you go in your mind? (an amusement park, a favorite story, a favorite vacation spot?)

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Scoring Sheet

Use tally marks to indicate a common or creative response. If possible, write your favorite responses and share with the teams afterwards.

Common Responses	Creative Responses
Total: _____ x 1 = _____ pts	Total: _____ x 3 pts = _____ pts

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