



Benefits of Play: Cognitive, Creative, Communication

Learn about geometric shapes!

STEAM Skills: Math

Grades: 1-5

Materials:

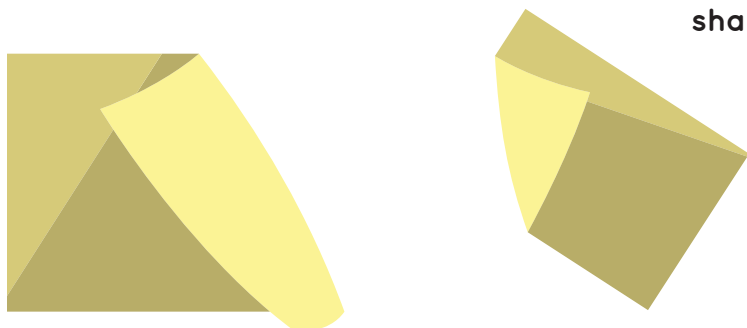
- 8x10 sheets of paper (3 per student)
- writing paper
- pencil

Step 1: Distribute the sheets of paper to the class, three per student.

Step 2: Instruct the class to start with one sheet of paper and fold it once – any way you choose: i.e., lengthwise, widthwise, corner to corner, corner to middle.

- Make sure the students note which way they initially folded their paper and the shape it made.

Step 3: Continue to fold the paper again and again, each time writing down how it was folded and the shape it made after every fold.



Step 4: When the paper is so small that it cannot be folded any more, the student is finished. When all the students are done – the discussion begins!

- Which geometric shape does your paper have in its smallest size?
- How many times were you able to fold the paper?
- What were the other shapes you formed as you were folding?
- How many total shapes were you able to create?

Step 5: Instruct the class to start over with a new sheet of paper and to make the first fold different from the one they made with the first sheet of paper.

The more times the students start over, the more creative they will become when folding the paper, creating more and different shapes each time.

