

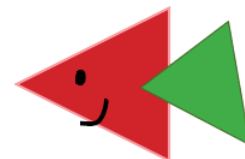
Animals (fur, fins, feathers, and scales)

About the Unit

Children investigate geometry (shapes and positions like above and below) through animal-themed crafts, games, and puzzles.

Ages 2 and Up:

- Make playdough animals: long, thin snakes, oval eggs, round turtles.
- Put together dinosaur puzzles.
- Use geometric shapes, such as triangles, rectangles, and circles, to create animal pictures.



How can you tell that the red shape is a triangle?"

Under 2s:

- Investigate which animals fit through a paper tube.
- Find animal toys hidden under a cup and under a blanket.
- Find and hide animal toys under a blanket.

Themes

Animals—fur, fins, feathers, and scales. Use the unit for mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and insects.

Dinosaurs, Mammals, Ocean life ... any animals, around the world! Replace animals that don't fit your theme with animals of a similar shape. Use the same activity and Talk About questions. For example, the porcupine (2A) could be a stegosaurus or sea urchin; the triangle fish (4A) could be a triangle cat. For more puzzles (3A and 3B), cut pictures into the same shapes as the dinosaurs.

Math highlight: Geometry

As children are doing the activities, help them learn math by:

- Describing shapes and positions with math words, such as square, round, above (all ages)
- Encouraging children to explain *how they know* if a shape is a triangle. (2 and Up)
- Asking children to compare shapes: *How are they the same? How are they different?* (2 and Up)

Reminders

- Use the activities in order, one each day for 2 and Up (1A, 1B, 2A ...) and one per week for Under 2s.
- Copies of activities for 2 and Up and Under 2s go home in color each week.
- Model the “Talk About” sections. These build mathematical thinking and engage children in exploring and discovering math.
- Use at least one Storytime Connection (Read Math Together /Talk Math Together) with a book of your choice. Send them home in color.
- Post Center Activities. Each month focuses on a different number and shape.

Color copies and printouts help make math friendly and fun.

Animals (fur, fins, feathers, and scales)

Materials

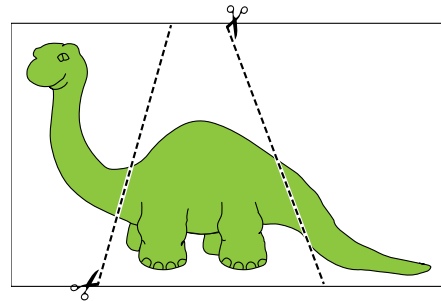
Ages 2 and Up

Per program

- Small paper plates (4 per child)
- Playdough in different colors (enough for each child to make and take home several creations)
- Two glue sticks
- Several sheets of brown and green construction paper (see below under “Other preparation”)
- Box of about 250 toothpicks
- Child safe plastic knife
- Six envelopes large enough for puzzle pieces for Activities 3A and 3B (see below under “Other preparation”)
- Construction paper (2-4 pieces per child)
- Tub of several hundred geometric foam stickers. Make sure tub includes many triangles. For instance: http://www.orientaltrading.com/mosaic-geometric-self-adhesive-foam-shapes-a2-57_2252.fltr

Other preparation

- Cut up strips of brown and green construction paper and put in a bowl. You’ll need enough for children to take two handfuls of paper strips.
- Make puzzles for 3A and 3B.
For each Brontosaurus page E, M, and H:
 - glue the page onto cardboard;
 - cut out along the lines;
 - put the pieces in an envelope;
 - label with level of difficulty (E, Easy; M Medium; H, Hard).



Repeat for Stegosaurus page E, M, and H.

- Optional: For durability, laminate the sheets Birds’ Eggs Photos, Snakes Photos, Turtle Photos, Porcupine Photos, Brontosaurus, and Stegosaurus. Alternatively, put each in a plastic sleeve.

Under 2s

Per program

- Two toilet paper tubes
- Dish towel or cloth, if possible with animal print
- Two soft blocks, if possible with animal pictures
- Two identical plastic or paper cups
- Animal toy that fits in a cup
- Small sheet or blanket
- Chair safe for a baby to crawl under