Sketching shapes

The principle of Geometry

If you have a sketchbook, take it with you on your daily walk and see how many one-minute sketches you can do. It could be something small like an insect or something big like a boat or a building or even a landscape.

These short sketches are all about capturing the shape and form of something, so choose something simple to start with that you find interesting. See how well you can recreate the shape and some of the detail in one minute. If you want to add more detail, try three-minute sketches and give yourself more time to study what’s there. In all this work, the more that adults and children can work together, the better.

YOUR CHALLENGE:
We see in Nature beautiful examples of geometry that we can recreate using circles. If you have a compass, this will help to draw the circles accurately. If not, use something circular to draw around. Start by drawing one circle. If you are using a compass, place the point of the compass somewhere on the edge of the first circle and draw a second circle. If you don’t have a compass, draw a second circle that overlaps the edge of the first one. The leaf shape you can see where the two circles overlap, is called a vesica or vesica piscis.
To create a three-petalled flower, add a third circle with the compass point at one end of the vesica. To draw four petals, draw two, touching circles, side by side. Place the lead of the pencil where they meet, with the point of the compass directly above, and draw a third circle. Repeat with the point of the compass below. Colour to complete!

TOP TIP:
Remember, the key to good drawing is to observe more than you draw. Take photos of the items you sketch and when you get home, choose one item to draw and colour as accurately and as carefully as possible.

FIND OUT MORE
To find out more about the principle of Geometry, visit: theharmonyproject.org.uk/activities-geometry

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