

Animal Shapes



Materials

- *Color Farm* and *Color Zoo* by Lois Elhert from your local library or view an animated read aloud on YouTube.
- Electronic device with internet access*
- Pattern shapes (optional)
- White paper (optional)

*Note: The *Pattern Shapes* app is available online or for download on laptops, iPads, Chromebooks, and Windows devices. Navigate to the following website for more information:

<https://www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/apps/pattern-shapes>

Learning Objectives

I can describe the colors, shapes, and pictures that I see in a book

I can design an animal using pattern blocks and describe my picture

I can use technology to be creative

Skills

-  Language Development
-  Creative Play
-  Hand-Eye Coordination
-  Math Skills

Exploration

Begin this activity by reading (or viewing) *Color Farm* and *Color Zoo* by Lois Elhert. As students explore the text, the following questions may be asked to encourage critical thinking, observation, and mathematical reasoning:

- **What animals are in these books? What do you know about these animals?**
- **What shapes are used to build each animal? Describe these shapes.**
- **What animal parts are created by these shapes?**
- **If you were to build an animal using shapes, what animal would you build and why?**

Allow plenty of time for students to identify the attributes (i.e., shape, color, size) of the animals. Then, tell students they will design their own animal with pattern blocks. Using the *Pattern Blocks* app from The Virtual Math Center, provide students time to explore the virtual manipulative. Alternatively, students could use regular pattern blocks to create their animal on white paper.

As students create their animal, encourage learners to discuss their design:

- **Did you build an animal using the pattern blocks?**
- **What parts of the animal did you design?**
- **What shapes did you use to design your animal? Tell me about these shapes.**

As an extension, students may then design an offspring for their animal and make comparisons between the adult and baby animals.



