

The Shape of Buildings



Materials

- *Snippets: A Story About Paper Shapes* by Diane Alber
 - From your local library, or find a read-along on YouTube
- Virtual Pattern Block Interactive
 - <https://toytheater.com/pattern-blocks/>
 - <https://apps.mathlearningcenter.org/pattern-shapes/>
- Paper (different colors, optional)
 - Shape template (attached)
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors

Learning Objectives

- I can use paper shapes (standard and non-standard) to make a 2-dimensional building
- I can use an online tool to make a building out of shapes
- I can explain which shapes I used for the different parts of the building and why

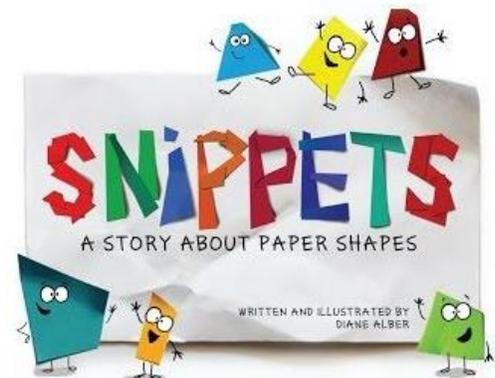
Skills

-  Fine Motor
-  Creative Play
-  Math Skills

Exploration

This activity starts by allowing students time to play with one or both virtual shape interactives listed in the materials above. The only directive to learners will be to 'make a building'. Allow them ample time to play around with and get familiar with the program(s) and how it works. After they have had time to make a building out of shapes, you may want to discuss:

- **Which shapes did you use?**
- **Why did you use the <shape name> there? Could you use a different shape? Why or why not?**
- **Were there any shapes that you didn't use?**
- **Were there any shapes that you wanted to use but didn't have?**



After the virtual activity, students may try the activity again using paper shapes cut out from the attached template—an adult helper may need to assist in cutting out the shapes, but make sure ALL pieces of paper are included (even the not-so-standard shapes). Once students have their paper shapes, again, task them with making a building. You may use the same questions from the virtual activity to guide the process.

Once the learner has completed the activity, tell them you are going to read (or listen to) a story about paper shapes just like the ones they are using. Read or listen to *Snippets: A Story About Paper Shapes* by Diane Alber, and ask students the following:

- **Did you use any 'snippets' in your buildings? For which parts?**
- **How were the houses in the story different after the snippets joined them?**
- **If you were to make a new building using the paper shapes, would you use more/less/same/different pieces?**

Encourage students to try making more buildings using the paper shapes, and see what fun uses for 'snippets' they find!

Shape Template

