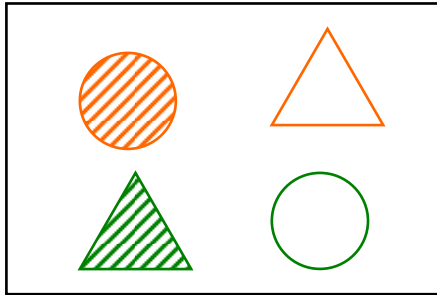


Making Matches

Whole group

5 minutes

Materials: Prepare a display of four shapes that is large enough to be visible to the entire group. The four shapes must include two different shapes, two different colors and two different shadings, such that each shape is the same as each other shape in one (and only one) attribute. An example:



Activity

Ask participants to look at the four shapes and consider how they could make matched pairs of shapes. Some participants may note that there are no exact matches; urge them to find a pair that matches in some attribute. After a few moments, ask participants to share the “pairs” they have found. It should quickly become apparent that each of the shapes could be matched with all three of the other shapes, depending which attribute (shape, color or shading) is being used.

Conclude the Activity

Discuss with participants the importance of the idea that matches can be defined by different attributes, resulting in different pairs. Defining sets is foundational to number concepts such as counting and comparing.

Making Matches Emphasizes:

- Attributes can be used to sort collections into sets
- Identifying and describing observable attributes
- Objects in a single set can have multiple attributes that are both alike and different
- Closed sorts offer a limited number of attributes by which to sort

Key Questions to Ask:

- *What attributes did you naturally gravitate towards when trying to find matches with the objects in the set?*
- *Why is it important to give students experiences with attributes beyond color or shape?*
- *What makes this activity an example of a closed sort?*