

5 Shapes Many Emotions

Explore, Describe and Collage Expressive Faces

Why are the shapes black?

We designed this activity to help teachers and kids to notice and describe how even “small” choices about shape, direction and spacing can produce a huge variety of expressions. You are welcome to use color paper, but be aware that you will need to prep many more shapes to have all of the shapes available in all of the colors. If you want to use color, consider making tracers so that your students can cut the shapes they need in the colors they want.

How many shapes do I need?

Each face will take a minimum of 6 shapes

Mouth, Nose, Left eye, Right eye, Left eyebrow, Right eyebrow

But your kids will use many more than the minimum! They may...

- Overlap shapes to make new shapes
- Use shapes to make individual lips ,eyelids, nostrils, mustaches, wrinkles, tattoos, earrings, tears

Encourage their creativity by prepping enough shapes! See the adaptations below for ideas that involve less prep!

How many shapes should I prep?

Adaptation 1- Collage a two-faced puppet

- You will need one sheet of black construction paper for each child in your class.
- Make 8-10 copies of the All 5-shapes Template. Place each template on top of a stack of 3-5 sheets of black construction paper (depending on how many layers of paper you want to cut through at a time). Secure each stack with paper clips. Cut through each stack, tracing the shape lines using sharp scissors.
- Cut out 2 head shapes for each child.
- Cut out 1 torso shape for each child (optional)
- Have the children make two contrasting emotion faces, one on each head. Attach a stick to the back of one face with packing tape and then staple the other head on to enclose the stick.

continue...

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Adaptation 2- Collage a puppet with one expressive face

- You will need one sheet of black construction paper for every two children in your class.
- Make 4-5 copies of the All 5-shapes Template. Place each template on top of a stack of 3-5 sheets of black construction paper (depending on how many layers of paper you want to cut through at a time). Secure each stack with paper clips. Cut through each stack, tracing the shape lines using sharp scissors.
- Cut out 1 head shape for each child.
- Cut out 1 torso shape for each child (optional)
- Attach a stick to the back of the head (and optional torso) with packing tape.

Adaptation 3- Make 5-shape tracers

- Cut out and laminate a set of 5 shapes for each table that students can share and use to cut and trace what they need. This allows students to choose to cut shapes in other colors if they wish!
- The children can also trace and cut out their own head and torso.

Adaptation 4- Use the 5 shapes as manipulatives

- Cut out and laminate a set of 5 shapes for each child or make a few sets for a center or station activity. Kids can use them to make a face to show how they are feeling each day and/or use them to play with ideas for expressive faces to inspire character drawings.
- You can give them each a head shape or just use a paper plate.

Adaptation 5- No prep!

- If you don't want to prep any shapes, have your students tear construction paper and use the pieces to make expressive faces.
- Kids can tear their own head shape also. Be prepared to model being open to a lopsided and lumpy head shape by using your lumpy head shape to inspire your puppet character.
- See the [Explore & Describe: Torn Paper Collage Page](#) for info about how to set this work up.

Resource:

All 5 Shapes Template

