

5 Shapes Many Emotions

Explore, Describe and Collage Expressive Faces

Timing

40-45 minutes

Space

Steps 1 & 2: Children need to see your samples. A document camera can be useful!

Steps 3 & 4: Works best at tables where they can share shapes.

Materials

Precut shapes
Precut heads
Optional glue

Additional supports

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Step 1: Explore & Describe the shapes

(6-8 minutes)

Students describe what each shape makes them imagine.

For each of the five shapes ask...

What does this shape remind you of?

What is this shape called?

Is this shape curvy or pointy or both?

For the circles ask...

Is it big or small?

For the teardrop, crescent and almond shapes ask...

How many curves does it have? How many points?

Are the curves going the same direction or different directions?

Tips for Step 1

- Affirm & welcome all ideas for what the shapes remind them of.
- For kinesthetic learners, it is helpful to have the students trace the shape with both of the arms in space. For example: Start with fingers together to make a point. Then trace the curves going either the same direction (moon shape) or opposite directions (lemon shape).
- Sometimes, it is helpful to move the shape in a way that illustrates what the child is describing.
- Students may have a variety of ideas about what to name some of these shapes. Use the name that makes sense to them.

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Step 2: Practice making choices

(3-5 minutes)

Make a face together! Kids help the teacher choose...

- **SHAPES**- Which of the five shapes could I use for my eyes? nose? mouth? eyebrows?
- **DIRECTION**- Do you want me to place the lemon shape so that the eye is horizontal, vertical or tilted?
- **SPACE**- Should I place the eyes close together or far apart?
Repeat to complete the face (eyes, nose, mouth and eyebrows)

Tips for Step 2

- Make sure everyone can see the face.
- Move the shapes to show what words such as *horizontal, vertical, diagonal, squished and spread* look like, as you say them.
- Don't forget the eyebrows.
- If students offer multiple ideas, validate a variety of choices by trying them out and revising your face.
- It's ok if they don't choose to use all five shapes, just be sure to use them all when you model revision (step 3).

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Step 3: Model Revision

(3-5 minutes)

Is this the only way we can make a face?

- **SPACING**- Let's see what happens if we squish the shapes on our face together. What happens if we stretch the shapes apart? When we change the spacing does it change the feeling the face is showing?
- **DIRECTION**- Let's see happens if we tilt the Eyebrows. What happens if we tilt them the other way? If we change the direction of the mouth? Eyes? Nose? When we change the direction of the _____, does it change the feeling the face is showing?
- **SHAPE**- Let's see what happens if we change the shape of our nose. What happens if we change the mouth shape or the eyes? When we change the shape of the _____, does it change the feeling the face is showing?
- **ASYMMETRY**- Let's see what happens if we change just one of the eyes. What happens if we change one of the eyebrows? When we make our face uneven, does it change the feeling the face is showing?

After each change ask- Can you copy our puppet face with your own face? How does it make you feel when you _____?

Options for Step 3

- Set up 1: Model revision by making changes to the sample puppet. This is a good choice if your class is doing well focusing forward on the sample face you have just made together, and might lose focus if they have art supplies in their hands.
- Set up 2: Facilitate a guided hands on exploration of revision. Pass out a head for each student and put piles of mixed up shapes on the tables to share. Give the students 1-2 minutes on a timer to choose eyes, nose, mouth and eyebrows. Then have them follow the revision prompts with their own faces. This is a good choice for groups who focus better while doing something hands on.

Steps and tips for...

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Before step 4: Transition to set up hands on work

(3-5 minutes including passing out materials)

We are ready to make some faces! We are not using glue today. The goal is to make as many faces as you can using these shapes! When you're done with a face you can dump it (dump your sample face) and start a new one! (If you have not already, pass out one head to each student and put piles of mixed up shapes on the tables for kids to share and choose from.)

Step 4: Independent exploration

(20 min)

Students explore independently/ Teachers describe kids' choices

- **STUDENTS** experiment with the shapes to make different facial expressions. The goal is to try to make as many different expressions as you can.
- **TEACHERS** circulate to describe student choices. For support refer to the Describing Tool: 5 Shapes Collage

Tips for Step 4

- To encourage exploration and revision, have individual students or the whole class occasionally dump their choices and start over.
- Some kids may spend this exploratory time making designs that don't look like faces at all! That is okay! Challenge yourself to describe choices about shape, spacing, direction and symmetry, even if you don't understand how those choices make a face. For support refer to the Describing Tool: 5 Shapes Collage
- Encourage kids to continue engaging with their exploration kinesthetically by copying their puppet faces with their own faces, and verbally by discussing sharing with their friends about what they are making, discovering and imagining!
- You can always offer space, direction and shape exploration prompts 1-on-1 with kids who are stuck.

Explore & Describe: 5 Shapes Many Emotions

Through this lesson, students are getting better at:

In language and literacy-

Learners will be able to identify shapes. Learners will be able to use adjectives to describe shapes. Learners will be able to make connections between shapes and facial features. Learners will be able to describe how facial features convey emotions. Learners will be able to use figurative language to identify how shapes look and what it reminds them of.

In art making-

Learners will be able to make artistic choices when selecting shapes to make a face depicting various emotions.

Next Generation Standards/ Common Core

- Speaking and Listening .2 (ask and answer questions with key details)
- Speaking and Listening .4 (describe people, places and events with detail)
- Language .5 (demonstrate understanding of word meanings and figurative language)
- Language .6 (use words and phrases acquired through conversation)

CASEL 5 Competencies

- Self-awareness
- Self-management
- Social awareness

Danielson Domains

- 2a, 2b
- 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e

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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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Explore, Describe and Collage Expressive Faces

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

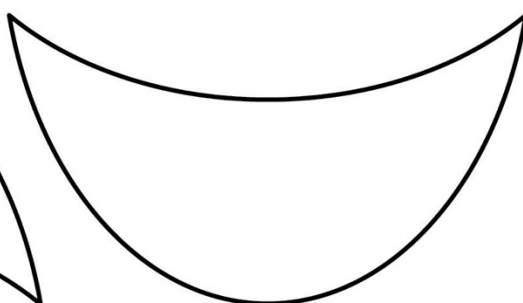
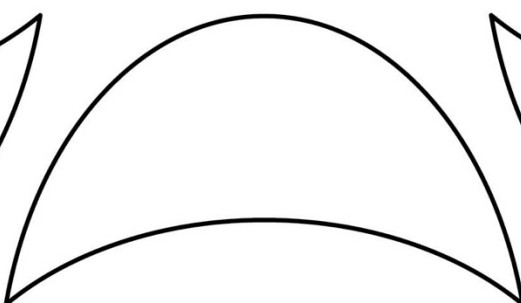
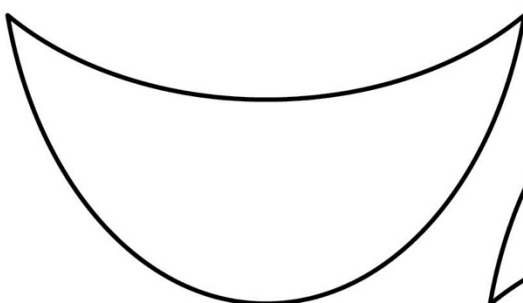
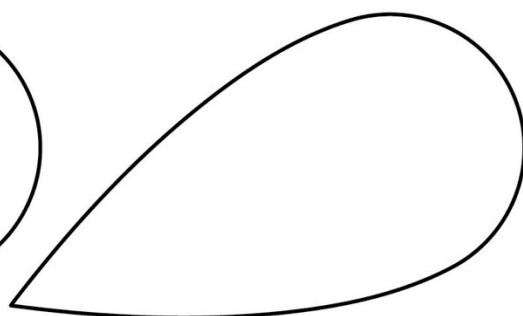
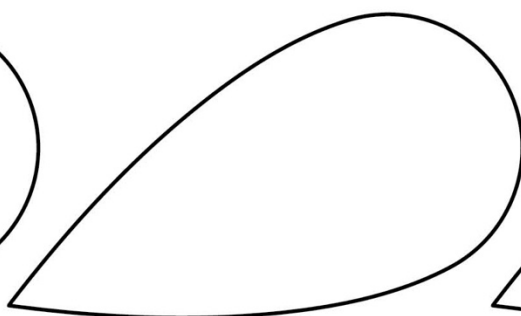
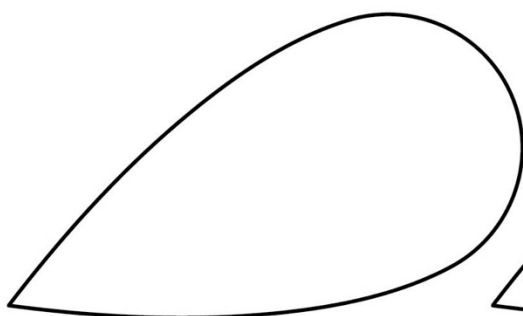
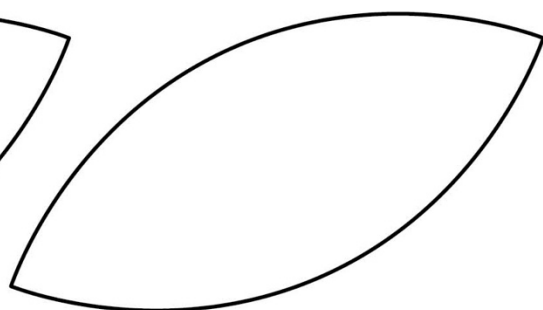
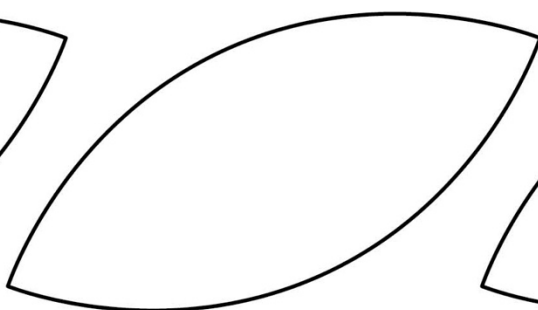
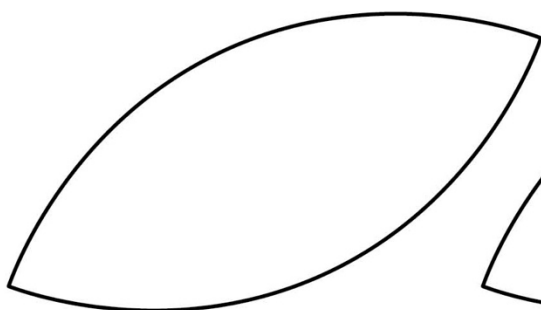
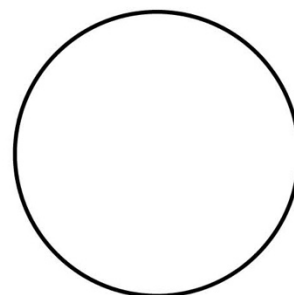
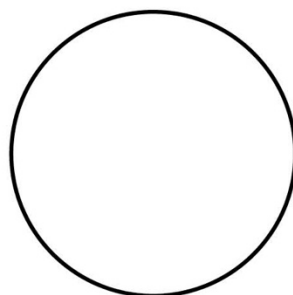
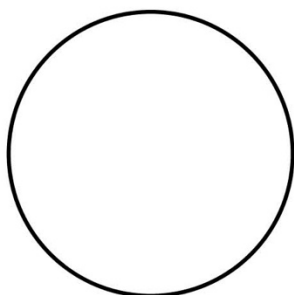
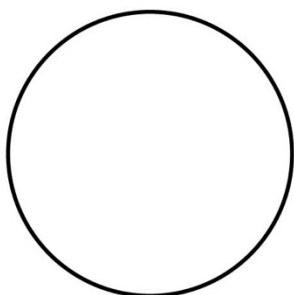
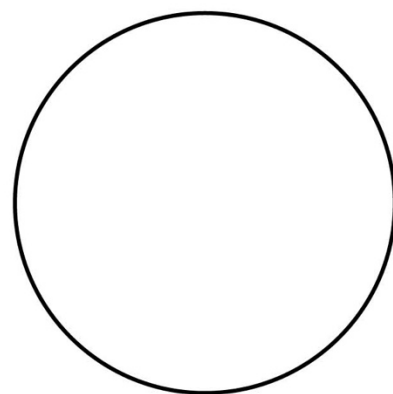
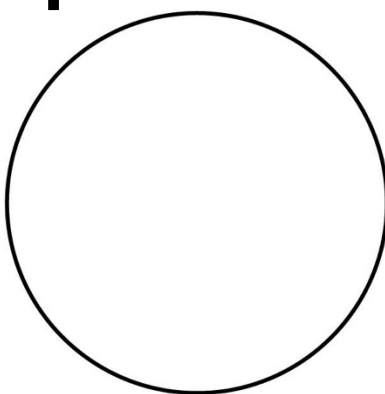
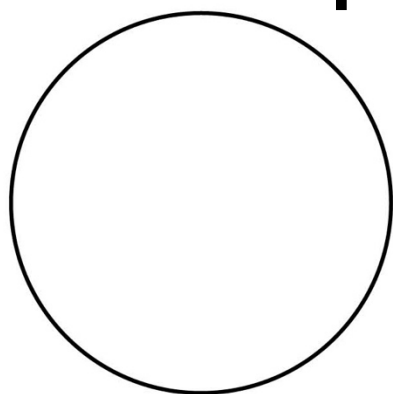
- Cut out and laminate a set of 5 shapes for each child or make a few sets for a center or station activity. Kids can use them to make a face to show how they are feeling each day and/or use them to play with ideas for expressive faces to inspire character drawings.
- You can give them each a head shape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



Preparation guide with templates for...

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Instructions for the Head

To prep in advance for your students

- Make one stencil- Print out this sheet. Cut out the head shape to use as a stencil.
- Use the stencil- Save time by stacking the stencil on top of 2-5 sheets of colored card stock to cut through at once. Secure the sides with paper clips before cutting. Reuse the same stencil to cut more batches.
- Materials needed for a 2-face puppet- You will need two sheets of 8.5" x 11" color card-stock to cut 2 heads for each student, plus extra for color choice.
- Materials needed for a single face puppet- You will need a sheet of 8.5" x 11" color card-stock to cut 1 head for each student, plus extra for color choice.

To make stencils for students to use

- Make multiple stencils- You need enough for kids to share them in pairs or in small groups. They will be easier for students to use if you make them out of card-stock. Save them to use again in the future!
- Tracing the stencil- Let kids choose the color of card stock they want. Show them how to hold the stencil still while tracing the head shape. If they are making a 2 face puppet, they will need to trace 2 separate heads.
- Cutting the head- Kids can cut along the traced lines themselves to create their head It is fine if the head turns out a bit lumpy or asymmetrical. It will give their puppet character! If they are making a 2 face puppet, they will need to cut 2 separate heads.
- Materials needed for a 2-face puppet- You will need two sheets of 8.5" x 11" color card-stock each student to cut 2 heads, plus extra for color choice.
- Materials needed for a single face puppet- You will need a sheet of 8.5" x 11" color card-stock for each student, plus extra for color choice.

A large, black outline of a human head in profile, facing right. The outline is simple and clean, with no facial features or hair. It is centered on the page.

Head Template

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Instructions for the Torso

To prep in advance for your students

- Make one stencil- Print out this sheet. Cut along these lines and discard the corners. Use the remaining shape as a stencil to trace the torso, shoulders and neck for the puppet.
- Use the stencil- Save time by stacking the stencil on top of 2-5 sheets of colored card stock to cut through at once. Secure the sides with paper clips before cutting. Reuse the same stencil to cut more batches. You will need 1 torso per student plus extra for color choice.
- Materials needed- You will need a sheet of 8.5" x 11" color card-stock to cut a torso for each student, plus extra for color choice.

To make stencils for students to use

- Make multiple stencils- You need enough for kids to share them in pairs or in small groups. The stencils will be easier for students to use if you make them out of card-stock. Save them to use again in the future!
- Tracing the stencil- Let kids choose the color of card stock they want. Show them how to line up the square bottom of the stencil with their sheet of card-stock and hold the stencil still while tracing the two shoulder lines. Each child needs 1 torso.
- Cutting the torso- Kids can cut along the traced lines themselves to create their torso. It is fine if the shoulder shape is a bit uneven or asymmetrical.
- Materials needed- You will need a sheet of 8.5" x 11" color card-stock for each student, plus extra for color choice.

Tips

- Save the colorful shoulder off-cuts to use as collage material. They make great pockets, scales and hands!
- If making a 2-face puppet, it's important that the top of the neck is not altered and that the neck doesn't end up too skinny to support the tube mechanism.

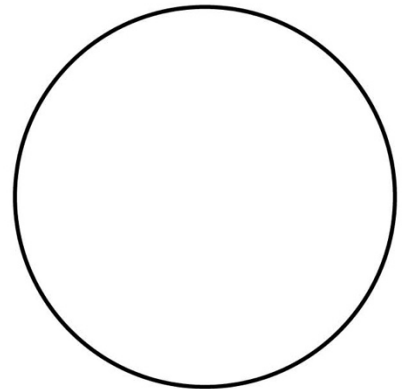
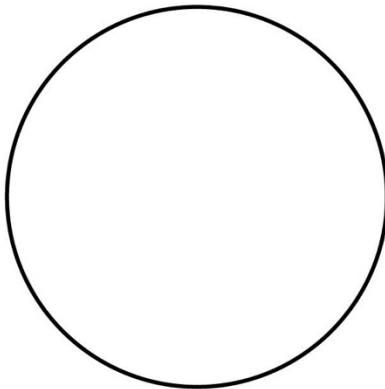
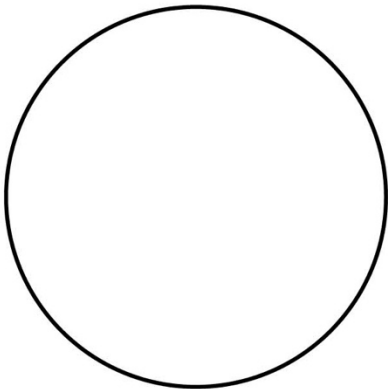
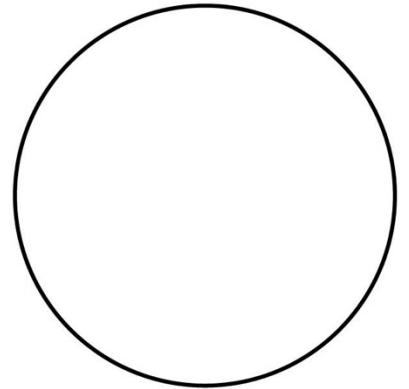
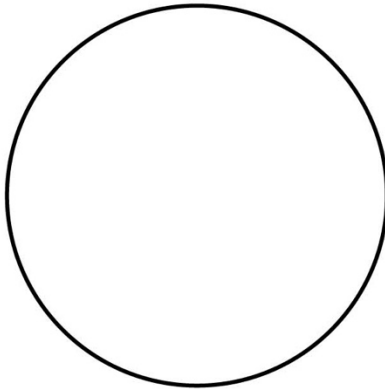
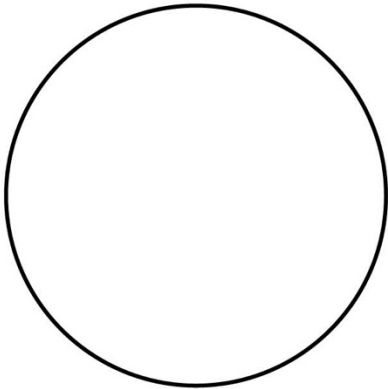
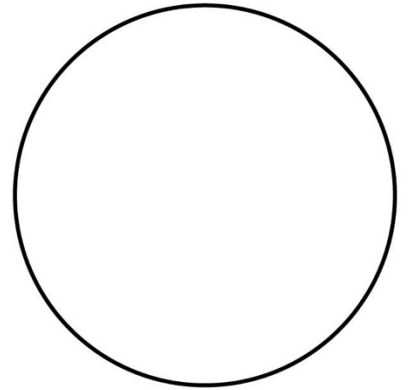
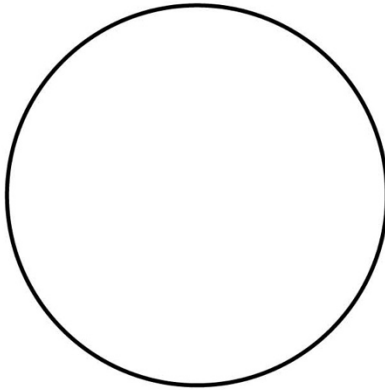
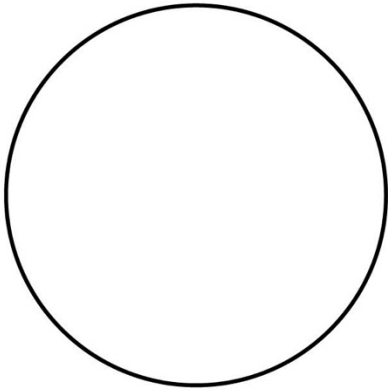
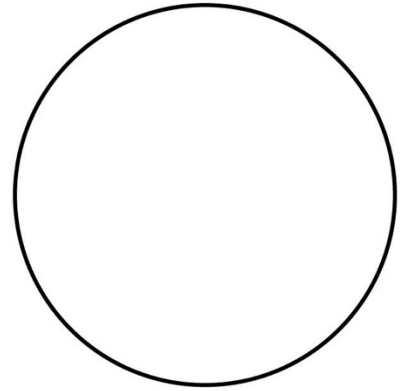
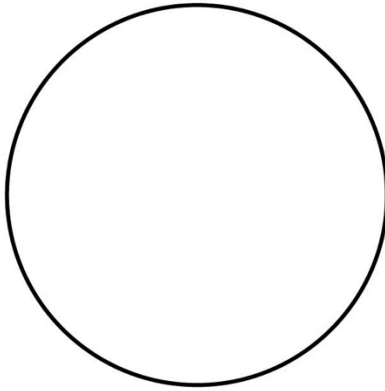
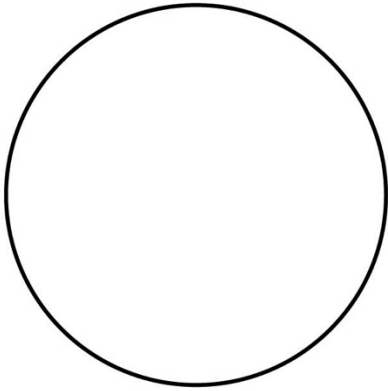
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Torso Template

Template to make extra big circles for...

5 Shapes Many Emotions

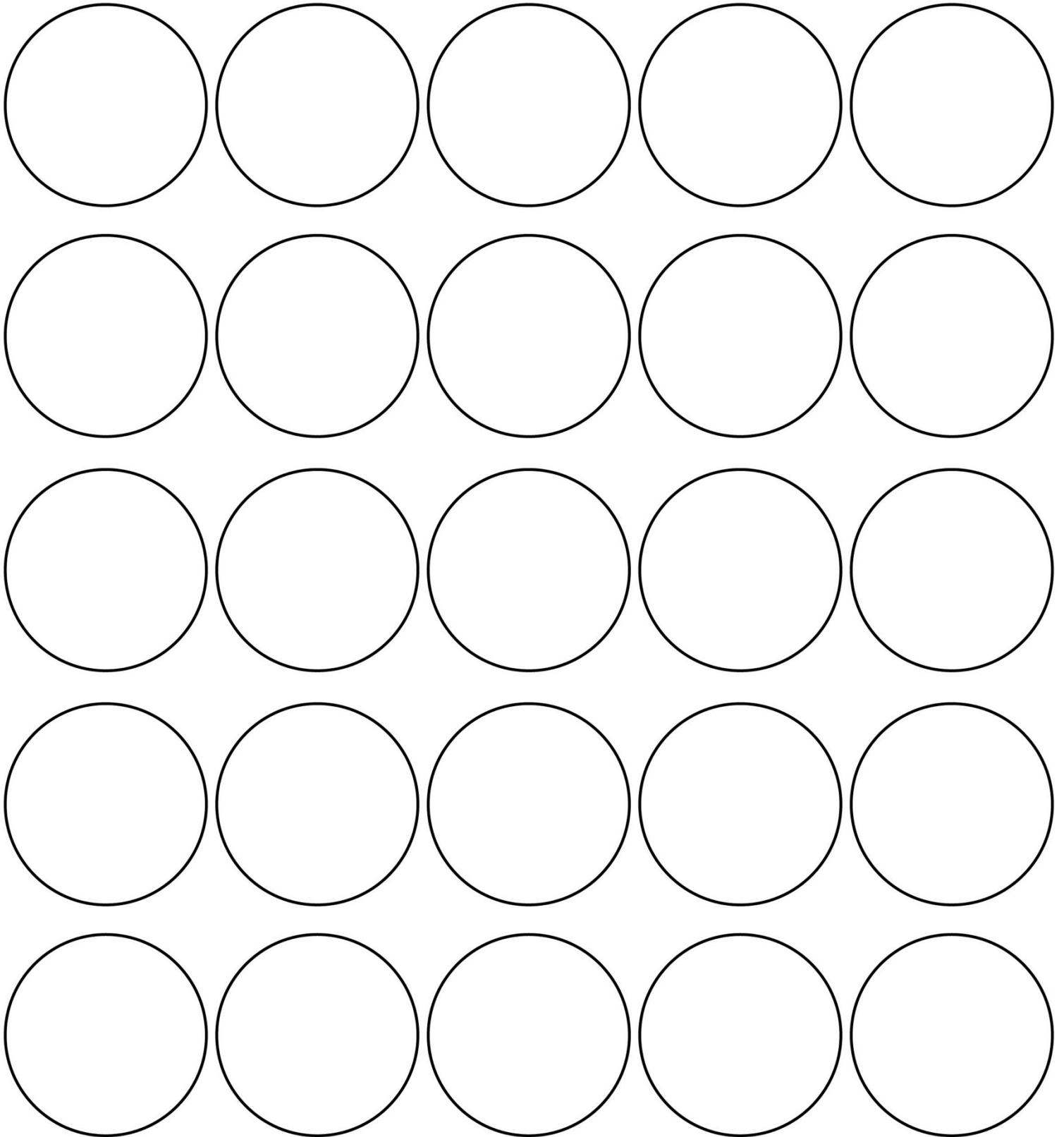
If you need more 2" circles: place on a stack of 2-3 sheets of black construction paper / secure with paper clips / cut through each stack, tracing the shape lines using sharp scissors.



Template to make extra small circles for...

5 Shapes Many Emotions

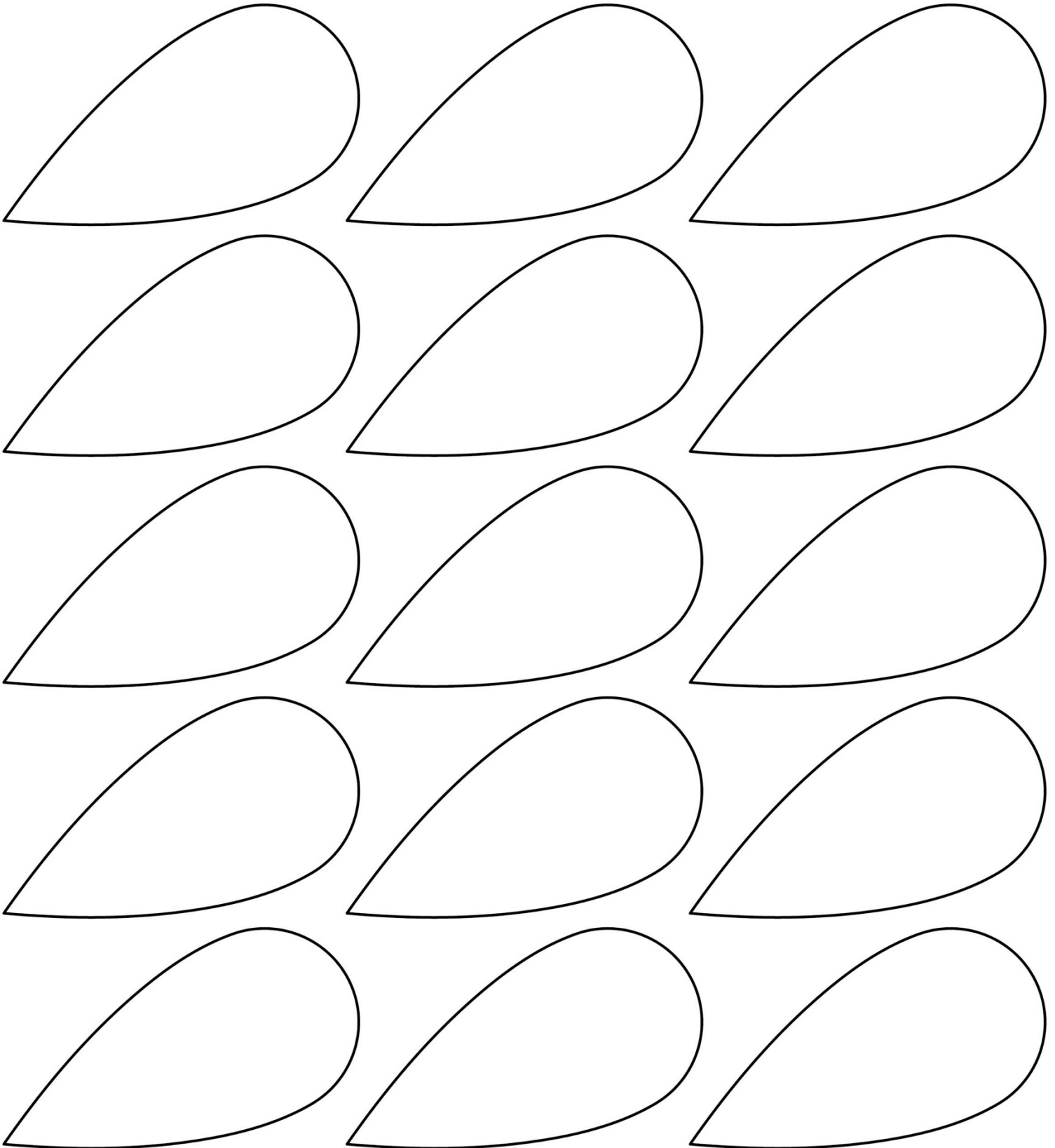
If you need more 1.5" circles: place on a stack of 2-3 sheets of black construction paper / secure with paper clips / cut through each stack, tracing the shape lines using sharp scissors.



Template to make extra drops for...

5 Shapes Many Emotions

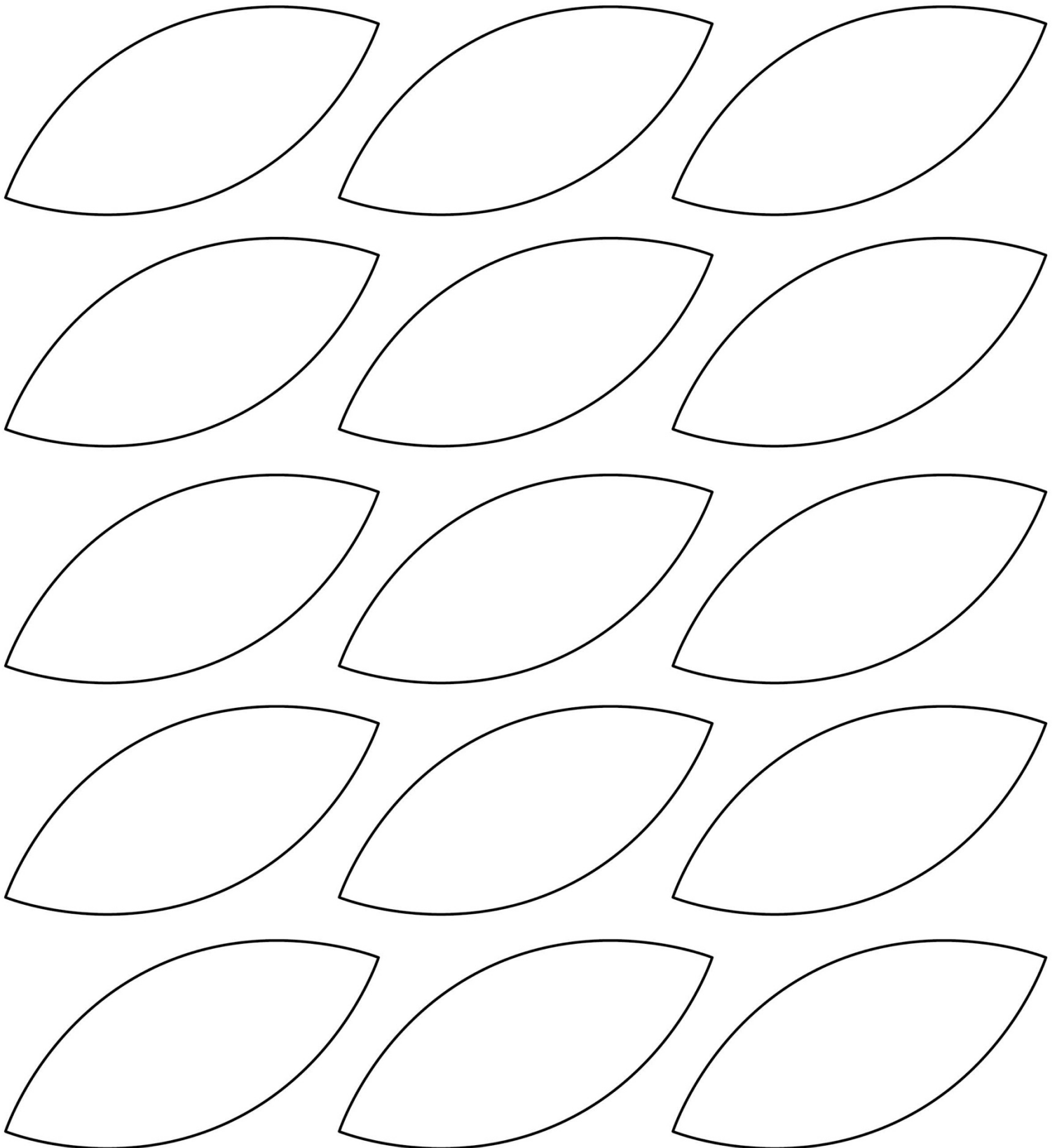
If you need more drops: place on a stack of 2-3 sheets of black construction paper / secure with paper clips / cut through each stack, tracing the shape lines using sharp scissors.



Template to make extra lemons for...

5 Shapes Many Emotions

If you need more lemons: place on a stack of 2-3 sheets of black construction paper / secure with paper clips / cut through each stack, tracing the shape lines using sharp scissors.



Template to make extra moons for...

5 Shapes Many Emotions

If you need more moons: place on a stack of 2-3 sheets of black construction paper / secure with paper clips / cut through each stack, tracing the shape lines using sharp scissors.

