

Recognise 2D and 3D shapes

Adult Guidance with Question Prompts



Children recognise the difference between 2D and 3D shapes and should be able to name common 2D and 3D shapes. They begin to understand that 2D shapes are actually flat whereas 3D shapes are shapes that they can hold in their hand.

Children may struggle to identify 3D shapes from their drawings, and in fact don't need to be able to do this until year 5 – so children will benefit from having a cone, cuboid, cube and cylinder to look at and touch for this activity. Children need to be able to recognise shapes in different orientations.

How can we tell the difference between a 2D and 3D shape?

Is a square still a square if it is turned around?

What's the difference between a square and a cube?

Can you point to the name for this shape?

I think this shape is a (name of shape). Am I right? Why? Why not?

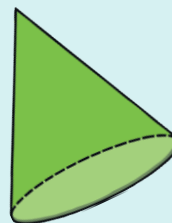
Recognise 2D and 3D Shapes



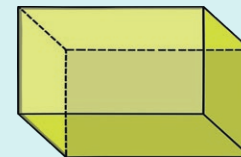
Label each shape using the words in the box.

square	cone	triangle	cube
cylinder	circle	rectangle	cuboid

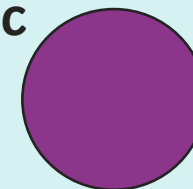
A



B



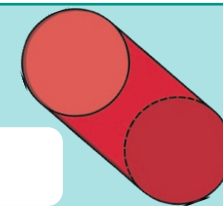
C



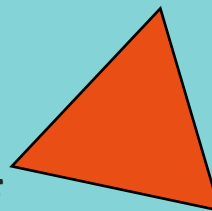
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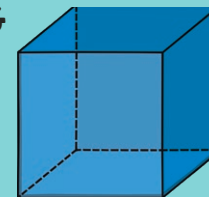
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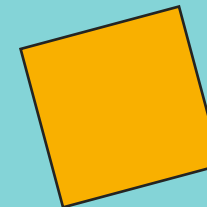
F



G



H



Tick the 2D shapes.

Cross the drawings of 3D shapes.

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Children consider if the statements about the shapes are true or false. Children may struggle to identify 3D shapes from their drawings, and in fact don't need to be able to do this until year 5 – so it will help if children can have a cone, square-based pyramid and triangular prisms to look at and touch to compare with the drawings.

Is this a 2D shape?

Do you know its name?

Is this a drawing of a cone?

How do you know?

What shape do you think it is?

Could this be a square?

Does turning your page around to look at it from different sides help you decide?

Do you know the name of this shape?

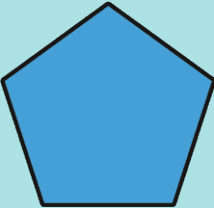
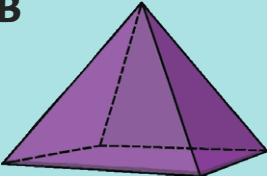
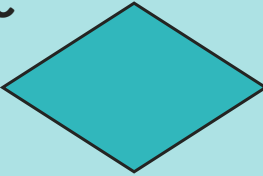
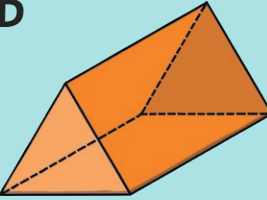
Do you think the last shape is a 2D shape or a drawing of a 3D shape?

What 3D shape is it?

Recognise 2D and 3D Shapes



True or false? How do you know?

Shape	Statement	True or false?
A 	This is a 2D shape.	_____
B 	This is a drawing of a cone.	_____
C 	This is a square.	_____
D 	This is a drawing of a 3D shape.	_____

Can you think of your own true or false question about 2D and 3D shapes?

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Children look at part of a shape and think about what the shape could be. For the 3D shape, use a cuboid and hide it behind a book or in a feely bag so only the top is visible.

If children are completing this activity independently, then emphasise that the second shape is a drawing of a 3D shape, and provide them with a selection of plastic 3D shapes to compare with the drawing.

Do you think the first shape is a 2D shape or a 3D shape?

Why?

What can you see?

What could be hidden?

What 2D shape could it be?

I think it could be a circle. Am I right? Why not?

Do you think the second shape is a 2D shape, or (a drawing of) a 3D shape?

Describe what you can see.

What shape could it be?

What couldn't it be?

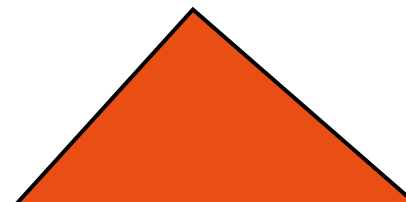
Could it be a square-based pyramid? Why? Why not?

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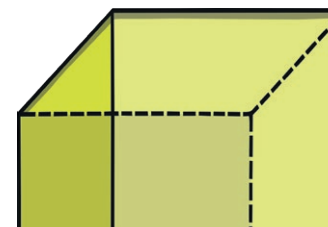
Part of these shapes have been hidden.
What do you think the shapes could be?

A



?

B



?