

This book about Chinese culture shows a child finding shapes in the food and objects in their neighborhood. The story lends itself to identifying shapes that are round, square, and rectangular.

CORE SKILL OBJECTIVES

INTENTIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES

THINK-MATH



Children will:

- ◆ Recognize geometric shapes in the environment
- ◆ Begin to compare and match real-world object shapes

Teachers will:

- ◆ Prompt children to identify shapes and/or their properties

TEACHING TIP

Shapes are all around us - children might notice them in their food, homes, toys, or anything that is familiar. Cultural experiences can enhance the importance of shapes we know, like noticing there are squares in foods like tofu. Children should be encouraged to celebrate the shapes they see in their cultures and seek geometry in their everyday lives. When children share their customs and beliefs with you, relate it back to geometry with shapes that can be found in foods they eat, symbols of their flags, or anything that is special to them.

1. INTRODUCE

- ◆ “What do you and your family enjoy doing together? Is there a food or holiday that is special to you? Today we are going to read *Round is a Mooncake*, a story about a child who celebrates their culture with the shapes they see all around.”

2. READ THE BOOK

- ◆ Pause occasionally to narrate the shapes and shape properties found in the child’s everyday life and culture.
- ◆ Ask children to identify and compare shapes’ properties within the illustrations.

Prompt Children to Identify Shapes and/or Their Properties

Read: “Round is a mooncake
Round is the moon”

Narrate: “The child is holding a round mooncake and staring at the moon outside of the window. Both of those things have one curved side and no straight edges.”

Ask: “What shape is the moon? What shape is the mooncake? Oh, are they the same?”

Read: “Squares are tofu and radish cakes”

Narrate: “The child is looking at different food in the bakery that are the same shape. Tofu and radish cakes are both squares. They both have four even sides.”

Read: “Poh Poh’s favorite Chinese lace
A very special pencil case”

Narrate: “Poh Poh means grandmother in Mandarin. They’re looking at the rectangle pencil case together. It has two sides that are longer and two that are shorter.”

Ask: “Do you see any other rectangles in this picture? What about other kinds of shapes?”

3. REVIEW

- ◆ “Shapes are everywhere! We see them in the foods we enjoy, holidays we celebrate, and special gifts from loved ones. This story shows that shapes can be found in the things that are special to us.”

4. KEEP IT GOING

- ◆ Model and encourage children to share what is special about their home culture. Tie in any shape similarities between cultural foods or objects that you talk about – for example, the similar shape of candles in both Hanukkah and Kwanzaa celebrations. Call attention to the properties of shapes during these conversations. Words to use include even, straight, curved, rounded, pointed, (number) sides.