Mouse Shapes by Ellen Stoll Walsh

about the math

This is a book about shapes. In this book, children can learn:

- The names and properties of basic shapes, including the circle, triangle, square, rectangle, rhombus—often called a "diamond"—and oval.
- The same shapes can take many different forms. They can be different colors and sizes, and be rotated in different positions than we usually see them. And some shapes, such as triangles, come in many different types.
- Many things can be made from different shapes.

words to learn

Math words: shapes, circle, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond (rhombus), oval, one, two, three, eight, sides, big, bigger

Other words: pounced, sneaky, clever

tips and questions for reading

Talk about the characteristics of shapes: ***How many sides does a square have? What about a triangle?***

Notice how shapes come in different colors, sizes, and orientations: ***This shape is turned on its side. Is it still a triangle?***

Practice identifying the different shapes: ***What other shapes do you see on this page?***

Talk about how shapes can be used to make other things: ***What shapes do they use to make the cat?***

activity after reading

Look for shapes all around you: ***Let's look around the room. What shapes do you see?***

card activities

Preparation:

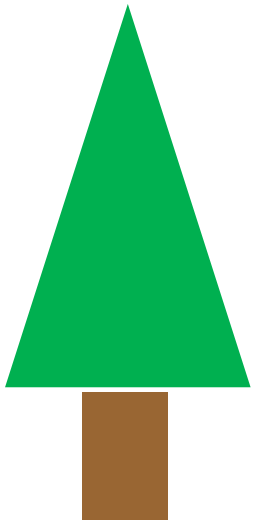
- Cut out the pages of cards along the black lines.
- Cut out the shapes on the last two pages along their edges, so no white is showing.

Play:

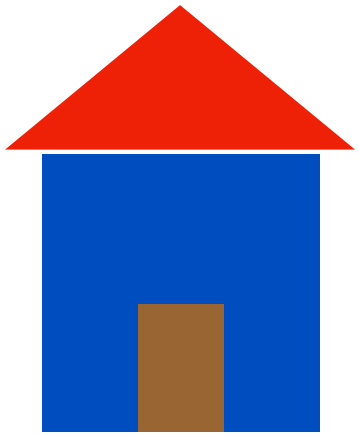
- Lay out the shapes in front of your child.
- Pick a card that shows an item made of only two or three shapes and read the prompt. ***Can you make a tree?***
- Help your child, as needed, to make the item. If your child is struggling, try to use questions to guide your child's efforts rather than pointing to the needed shapes. ***Let's see if we can figure out what shape that is. How many sides does it have? What color is it? Can you find one of the shapes that has that many sides and is that color?***
- Once your child is comfortable making the simpler items, move onto the more challenging items composed of more shapes.
- Encourage your child to create new items of any kind using the shapes.

For more ideas on teaching math to your child, go to dreme.stanford.edu/mathfest

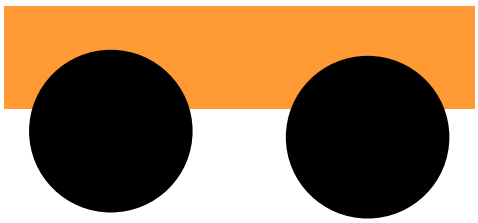
Can you make a tree?



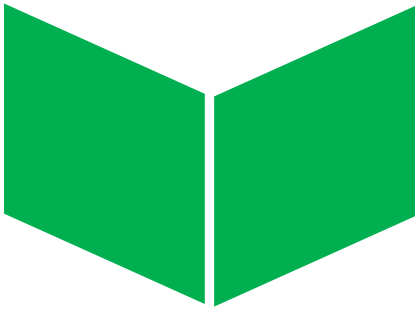
Can you make a house?



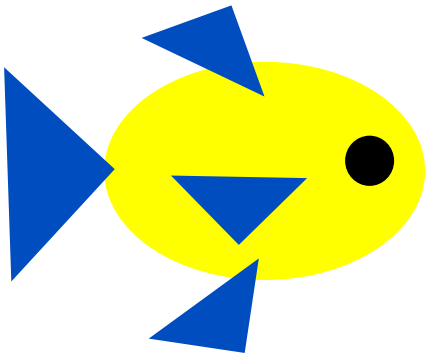
Can you make a wagon?



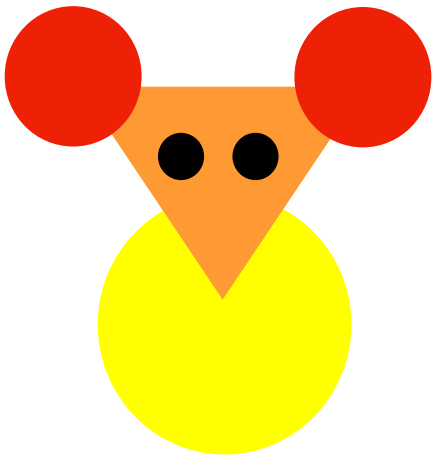
Can you make a book?



Can you make a fish?

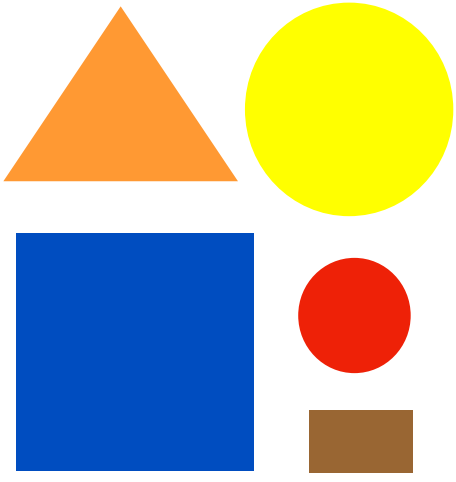


Can you make a mouse?

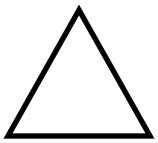
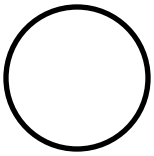
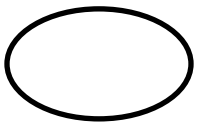
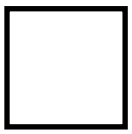
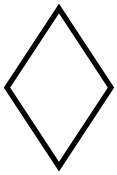
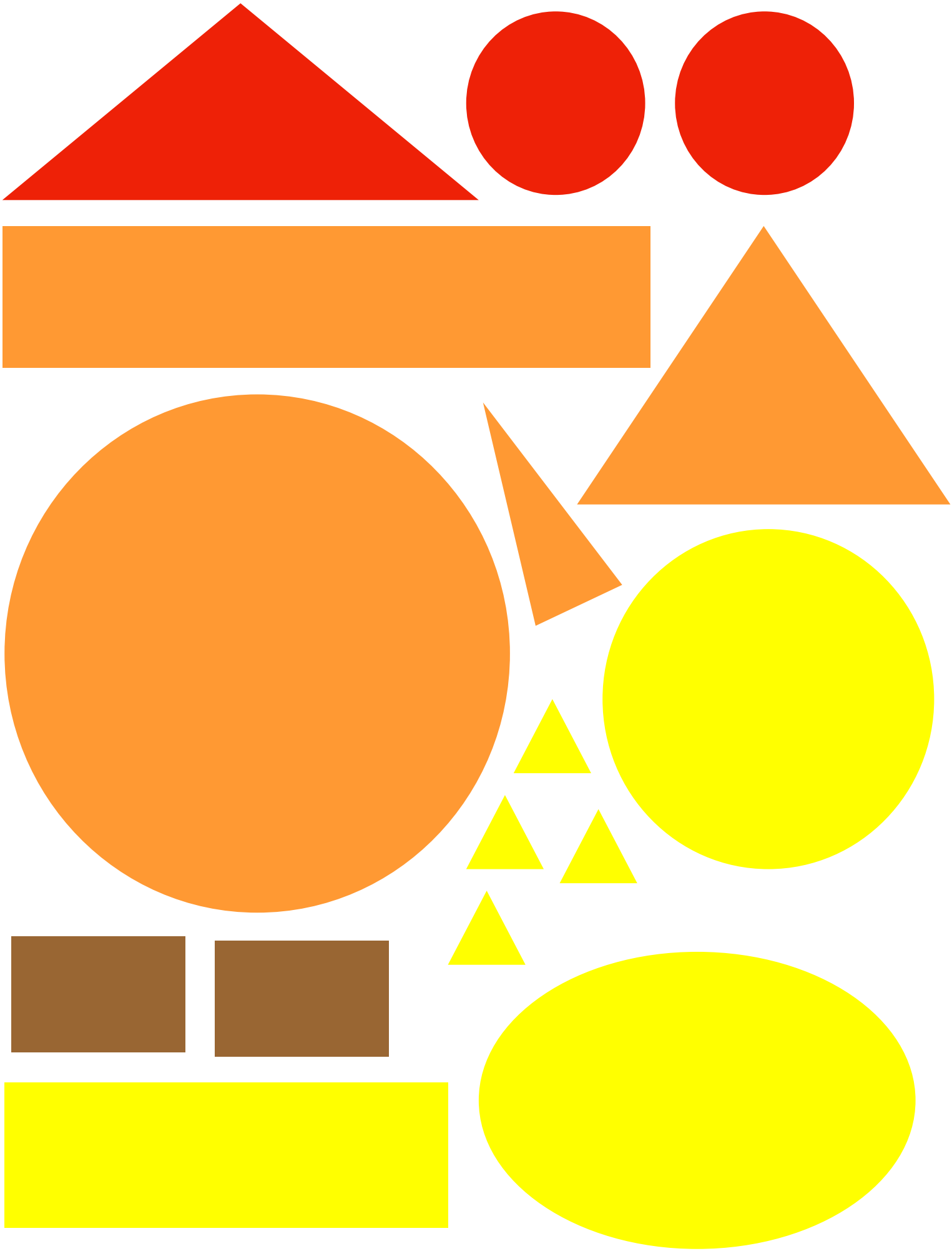
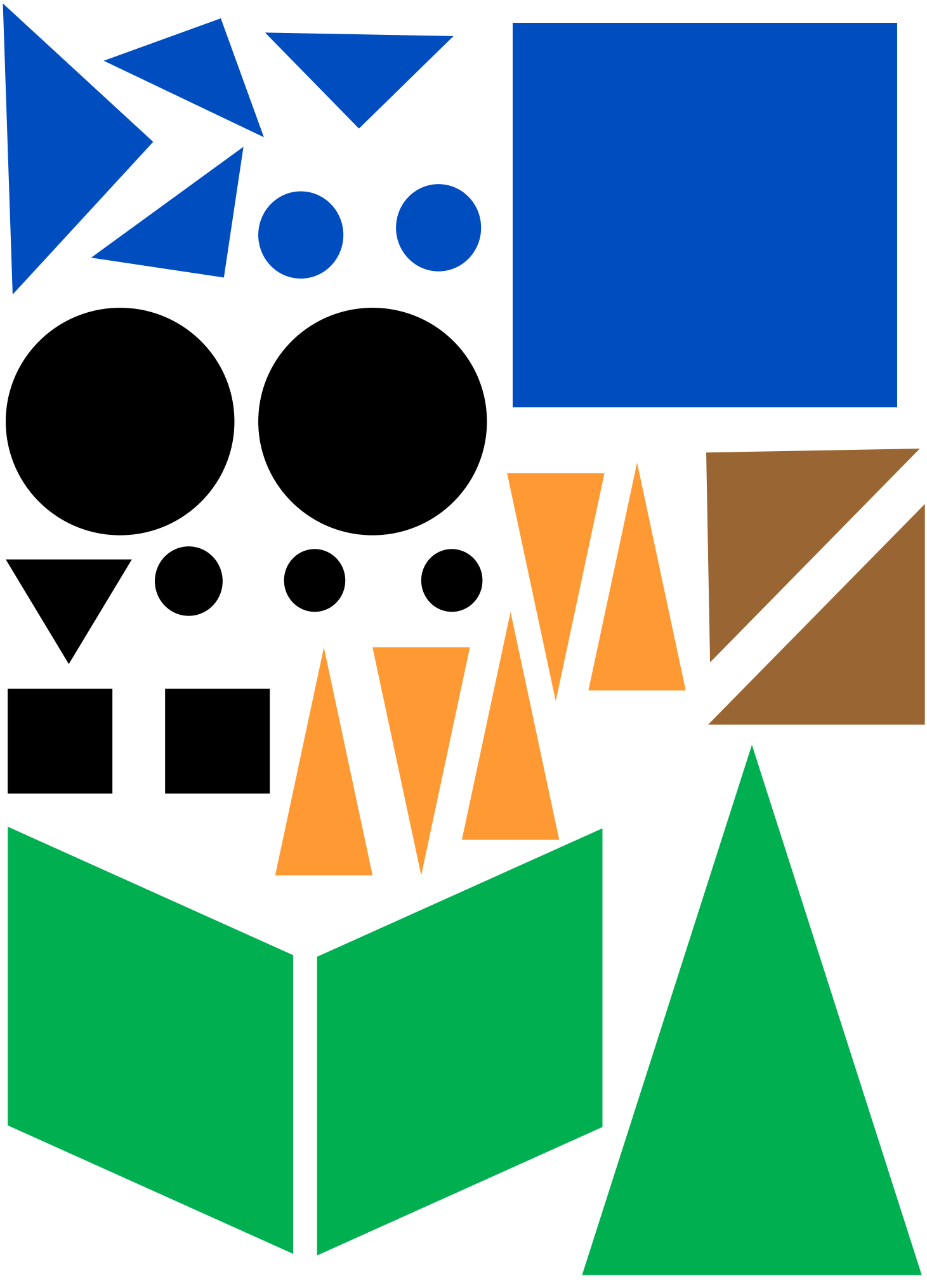


Can you make a cat?

Can you make your own picture with these shapes?



Can you make your own picture with these shapes?

Choose your own shapes. Can you make a car?	Choose your own shapes. Can you make a bird?	Choose your own shapes. Can you make a dog?
SORT THE SHAPES. Can you find all of the triangles?  A triangle has 3 sides and 3 corners. The corners can be wide or narrow.	SORT THE SHAPES. Can you find all of the circles?  A circle is completely round.	SORT THE SHAPES. Can you find all of the rectangles? A rectangle has 4 sides and 4 "squared" corners that are all the same.
SORT THE SHAPES. Can you find all of the ovals?  An oval is a rounded shape that looks like a squished circle.	SORT THE SHAPES. Can you find all of the squares?  A square has 4 sides that are the same length and 4 "squared" corners.	SORT THE SHAPES. Can you find all of the rhombuses? (some people call them diamonds)  A rhombus has 4 sides that are the same length and 4 corners. The corners can be wide or narrow.