

“When You Find Colors and Shapes”

by Angela Russ-Ayon

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Open-Ended Questions and Instructional Support

Pg. 1

This book offers plenty of opportunities for young children to take their reading experience of young children to a higher level. Explore STEM concepts together. Encourage observation, ask open-ended questions, wait patiently for a response. The questions below follow the book's progress and are designed to promote exploration and discussion, helping preschoolers build a solid foundation in recognizing and understanding shapes.

As you turn the pages, discuss colors, shapes, sizes, positions in space, patterns, and movement while you compare and contrast. Choose one or more questions to ask and remember to share your own experiences with the author.

MOVES IN ORDER:

Shake, twist from side to side, lift one foot and balance, turn around, swing your arms up and over, bend over and sweep, curl into a ball, march, jump (shout “Hooray”), walk straight ahead, run, tap the book, clap to start over.

EVERY PAGE TURN:

- Describe what you see.
- What do you notice about the shapes/colors on this page?
- How do you know that's a square/triangle/etc.?
- What do you think of when you see this color or shape?
- How does this color make you feel?
- What other things/objects are shaped like this?
- Where else do you see this shape or color inside/outside?
- Are all blues/whites/reds/etc. the same? How do you know?
- How do you make a color lighter/darker?
- What is a tint/shade/hue?
- What do you notice about the sides/angles?
- How are the shapes/colors the same/different?

- What happened to the shapes after you moved?
- Why do you think the shapes landed like this?
- How would you draw this shape in the air/on paper/in dirt/with paint/in shaving cream/in sand?
- How would you make this shape with your hands/arms/body/a friend?
- How can you make this shape out of paper/Legos/rocks/sticks/clay/paint/markers/pipe cleaners/etc.?
- How would you use these shapes to make/build something?
- Which shape do you like the most/least? Why?

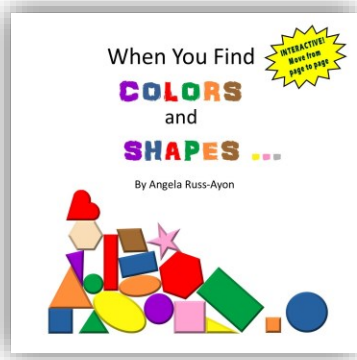


BLUE RECTANGLE | SHAKE:

- What do you see when you look high/low/in the pile of shapes?
- How can you move your body high and low?
- What things are high or low in the room/outside?
- Which parts of your body can you shake?
- How do you shake a little/a lot/slower/faster?
- What other things can you shake?
- Why do you think the shapes flew far and wide?
- What else do you see on this page? (Face)
- How would your body look if you spread it far/wide?
- What other things are shaped like a rectangle?

Rectangle: door, wallet, book, chalkboard, brick, table, picture frame, television, cell phone, cracker, bus, desk, bed, box, lasagna pasta, playing cards.

Blue: blueberries, plums, bluebirds, jeans, bluebells, sky, sapphires, oceans, eyes, blue jeans, Cookie Monster, Grover, Blue Man Group, peacock, topaz, Horton, Dory, Eeyore, lilac, blue jay, Smurfs.



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RED HEART | TWIST:

- How do you twist your body?
- Why do you think you can't twist your body all the way around when your feet don't move?
- Can you show me how to twist slowly/faster?
- How do you know where the “side” is?
- What other body parts can you twist?
- What are things at home/in class you can twist?
- What do you think will happen to the shapes when you twist your body?
- What do you notice about the colors/shapes on this page? (Patterns)
- Where do you see patterns around us?
- How can you make a pattern with shapes/colors?
- What else can you use to make patterns?
- Do you think the heart in your body is shaped like this? Why? Why not?
- What color do you think your heart is? Why?
- If a heart could make a sound, what would it sound like?
- What other things are red?

Red: ketchup, tomatoes, tomato sauce, strawberries, cherries, tomatoes, pomegranates, red delicious apples, raspberries, red bell peppers, meat of watermelons, cranberries, beets, raw meat, red velvet cake, candied apples, pepperoni, lobsters, red ants, ladybugs, stoplight, fire trucks, fire extinguishers, red carpets, The Flash, Elmo, Ironman.

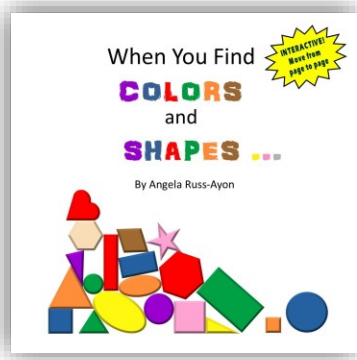


ORANGE SQUARE | LIFT ONE FOOT:

- What do you think the author means by “across?”
- What happens when you lift one foot and hold it in the air? (Balance)
- What would happen if you lifted one foot lower/higher in the air?
- Is it easy or hard to balance on one foot? Why?
- What if you tried balancing on the other foot?
- What if you balanced with your arms up, out, down, behind you?
- What if you counted while you balanced?
- What other things can you balance?
- What will happen if you stack your toys/blocks this way?
- How would you stack your toys/blocks differently?
- You balanced on one foot. How did the shapes balance, too?
- Which shapes do you see at the top/in the middle/on the bottom?
- What do you notice about the colors/shapes on this page? (patterns)
- Can things in the shape of a square roll? Why? Why not? Let's see.
- What other things are shaped like a square?

Square: game board, box, Rubik's cube, block, window pane, dice, ottoman, tiles, cheese slices.

Orange: Oranges, tangerines, pumpkins, carrots, orange bell peppers, apricots, persimmons, papayas, kumquats, meat of a cantaloupe, sweet potato, mango, or butternut squash, marigold flowers, basketballs, lifeboats, amber, Halloween decorations, goldfish, clown fish, tigers, caution cones, autumn leaves.



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PURPLE CIRCLE | SPIN AROUND:

- How do you move your body when you spin?
- What’s the best way to spin so you won’t fall?
- What happens if you spin slowly/too fast?
- What would happen if you held a tissue/streamer/scarf in your hand when you spin?
- Why do you think the shapes landed in a wide circle?
- What else do you think of when you see a circle?
- Can things roll when they are in the shape of a circle? Why? Why not?
- What does “round” mean?
- How do round things roll?
- What is your favorite/least favorite thing that is shaped like a circle?
- How many different colors can you use to color a circle?
- How do you measure the size of a circle?
- What other things are shaped like a circle?

Circle: oranges, slices of fruit or vegetables, round crackers, sushi roll, tortillas, pies, plates, hula hoops, frisbees, sundials, erasers on a pencil, light fixtures, balls, magnifying glasses, cymbals, bracelets, rings, parts of a snowman, full moon, buttons, bottle caps, wheels, coins, clocks.

Purple: flowers, eggplants, cabbages, grapes, purple carrots, blackberries, currants, figs, plums, beets, endive, lavender, violets, lilacs, amethyst, Barney, Tinky Winky Teletubby.

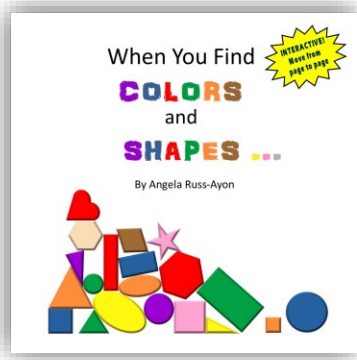


YELLOW OVAL | SWING:

- How many other ways can you swing your arms?
- How do you swing high/low/close to your body/away from your body/in a circle/in a half circle?
- How can you swing your body parts in opposite directions?
- What other body parts can you swing?
- How do you swing on the playground?
- What other things are shaped like a rainbow? (Slice of watermelon, turtle shell, jellyfish, or a bowl)
- Where do you see rainbows?
- What can you tell me about rainbows?
- How do the colors look on a rainbow?
- How are the colors of a real rainbow in the sky the same/different from the rainbow the shapes made?
- Why do you think the colors are the same/different?
- What other things are shaped like an oval?

Oval: watermelon, eggs, jellybeans, loaf of bread, jewelry, stones, opals, leaves, fake fingernails, platters, hairbrush, toilet seat, head of a racquet.

Yellow: squash, cheese, bananas, butter, egg yolk, yellow bell peppers, mac and cheese, lemons, omelets, corn, meat of a pineapple, mustard, sun, daffodils, marigolds, buttercups, pencils, canaries, baby chicks, taxis, sunflowers, school bus, rubber ducks.



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GREEN TRIANGLE | BEND & SWEEP:

- *What happened when you swept side to side?*
- *Why do you think the shapes piled up like that?*
- *What happens when you sweep with a broom?*
- *What do you notice about the colors/shapes that were swept to each side?*
- *How are the shapes different on each side?*
- *What other things are shaped like a triangle?*

Triangle: “Yield” sign, slice of pizza, slice of pie, ice cream cones, safety cones, hangers, pyramids, teepees, party hats, boat sails, Toblerone candy box, rooves, mountains with peaks.

Green: peppers, green bell peppers, artichokes, avocados, watermelon skin, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, limes, celery, cucumbers, pippin apple, cilantro, peas, meat of honeydew melons and kiwi, mint ice cream, lettuce, greens, spinach, zucchini, leaves, grass, garden hose, frogs, grasshoppers, praying mantises, green parrots, traffic lights, algae, jade, Shrek, Grinch, Hulk, Ninja Turtles, Gumby, Oscar the Grouch.

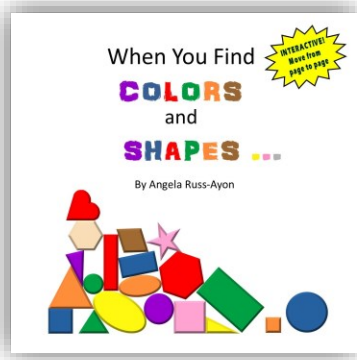


PINK STAR | CURL UP:

- *What can you tell me about the star shape?*
- *What do you have to do to make your body tight?*
- *What happened to the shapes when you curled up tight?*
- *How do you make your body open up and spread wide, instead?*
- *How do you make a ball roll/bounce?*
- *Why do you think a ball rolls (round) and a cube (square) doesn't?*
- *What can you do to make a ball roll faster/slower?*
- *How can you play with balls? (Pass, roll, toss, catch, throw, kick, bounce)*
- *Who uses balls?*
- *How can you make balls bounce higher?*
- *What sounds do balls make?*
- *What different kinds of balls can you find?*
- *How can you make a ball?*
- *What other things are shaped like a star?*

Star: starfish, star fruit, cookie cutter, ornaments, stickers, Ninja star, pentagrams.

Pink: pink lemonade, pink grapefruit, cotton candy, bubble gum, salmon, flamingos, the Pink Panther, pigs.



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BROWN DIAMOND | MARCH

- *How do you march?*
- *What’s the difference between walking and marching?*
- *How do you move your arms and legs when you march?*
- *What happened to the shapes when you marched?*
- *How does a drum beat help us march together?*
- *Why do you think the shapes look like a mountain?*
- *What shape do you think of when you look at the mountain?*
- *Why do you think there are more shapes on the bottom than the top?*
- *What do you think it would be like to climb a mountain?*
- *What do you think you would see if you were standing on the top/in the middle/on the bottom of a mountain?*
- *What do you think it would be like to climb a mountain?*
- *What other things are shaped like a diamond?*

Diamond: baseball field, jewelry, kites, pavers, “School Zone” signs, “Slow Down” sign, “Caution” signs, diamond on playing cards.

Brown: coffee, chocolate, skin of a potato, skin of a coconut, skin of a kiwi, pancake, toast, brown bread, brown sugar, tea, cinnamon, almonds, walnuts, certain grains, cardboard, brown bear, leather, paper bag, dirt, wood, pinecone.

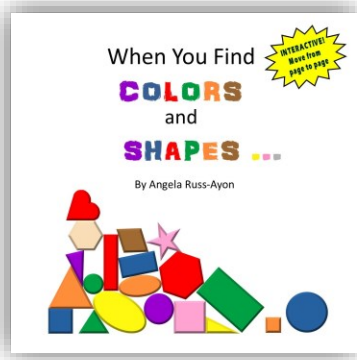


GRAY CRESCENT | JUMP

- *What other shapes does the moon make at night?*
- *How do you jump?*
- *How do your legs help you jump?*
- *How do your shoes/clothes feel when you jump?*
- *What happened to the shapes when you jumped?*
- *Why do you think the shapes flew in the air?*
- *Why do you think the small shapes flew higher than the big shapes?*
- *What do you think will happen to the shapes next?*
- *What happens when you toss something in the air?*
- *What would you have to do to make the shapes go higher/lower?*
- *What happens if you toss something heavy/light?*
- *What if we used a parachute/sheet to toss things?*
- *What other things are shaped like a crescent?*

Crescent: bananas, hot peppers, pasta, croissants, crescent moons, eyelid, sickle blade.

Gray: rain and storm clouds, fog, ashes, dust, moon, coins, concrete, hair, elephants, dolphins, sharks.



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TAN HEXAGON | WALK

- *What’s the difference between tan and brown?*
- *What do you notice about the sides of this shape?*
- *What’s the difference between walking and running?*
- *How does your body move when you walk/run?*
- *How do you walk slowly/fast?*
- *How fast can you walk without running?*
- *How do you walk softly vs. stomp hard?*
- *How do you walk straight/in a circle/zigzag/etc.?*
- *What would happen if you walked straight ahead and kept going?*
- *How do the shoes you wear change the way you walk?*
- *What do you know about paths?*
- *Where have you seen paths inside/outside?*
- *How do you think paths form where you walk?*
- *What do you notice about how you walk compared to how animals and insects walk?*
- *What happens when you walk on water, sand, mud, gravel? (Footprints, tracking, sliding, slipping...)*
- *What other things are shaped like a hexagon?*

Hexagon: bolt, honeycomb, stop sign, skin of a soccer ball, tiles, sections of a turtle shell.

Tan: leather, animal skin, khaki fabric, stones, camels.

WHITE | RUN

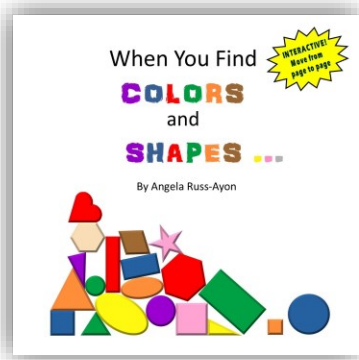
- *Where did the shapes go?*
- *Why do you think this page has no color?*
- *What other objects can you think of that have no color?*
- *What happens when you mix with other colors?*
- *What happens to white things when they get dirty?*
- *How does your body move/feel when you run?*
- *What’s the difference between walking and running?*
- *Why do people run?*
- *Why do you have to be careful when you run?*
- *How does your breathing change when you run?*
- *What other things are white?*

White: marshmallows, white sugar and sugar cubes, milk, cauliflowers, coconuts, salt, whipped cream, sour cream, egg whites, vanilla ice cream, snow, doves, teeth, sheep, polar bears, wedding dresses, cotton balls, toilets, clouds, paper, swan, French tips, baby’s breath flowers, white marble, chalk.

BLACK | TAP

- *What happened after you tapped the page?*
- *Why do you think the page is black?*
- *How do you make a room dark?*
- *What happens when you turn out the lights?*
- *Why/How do you turn on/off the lights?*
- *When do you turn on/off the lights?*
- *What things do you do in the light/dark?*
- *How do you move/find your way in the dark?*
- *What can help you see better in the dark?*
- *What happens when you close your eyes?*
- *What happens when you add black to another color?*

Black: black pepper, Oreos, licorice, black beans, black panthers, black cats, black bears, crows, beetles, bats, black widow spiders, sunglasses, black ties, black tuxedos, onyx, black ink.



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THINGS TO DO:

1. Copy, color, and cut-out the shapes in the back of the book. Use them for some of these activities.
 - *How do you know that's a circle/square/rectangle/etc.?*
 - *Show me what you can do with your shapes.*
 - *How can you use these shapes to make a person, animal, insect, flower, house, design, etc.?*
 - *What if you colored the shapes before you cut them out?*
 - *How will you know if you need more shapes?*
2. Trace shapes with a finger. Tap on the corners.
3. Count corners and sides.
4. Color paper shapes.
5. Sort objects by shape, color, or both.
6. Mix colors. Mix paint in water, bubbles, shaving cream, or ice. Overlay transparent colored materials.
7. Make colors lighter or darker.
8. Combine shape recognition with color matching.
9. Make shapes out of different materials: clay, playdough, sticks, rocks, sand, rope, ribbon, laces, chalk.
10. Look for shapes with curves, waves, and circles rather than straight lines.
11. Look at the environment. Observe natural objects like leaves, flowers, and rocks to find different shapes.
 - *What shapes do you see when you look up at the clouds/create rubbings?*
 - *What shapes do you see in a playground?*
 - *Can you find shapes in the clothes you are wearing?*
 - *What do you notice about these buildings/structures/tower/doors/windows?*
 - *What shapes do you see in your food/on your plate?*
12. Begin a fun scavenger hunt for shapes and colors.
 - *Find a street sign in the shape of a triangle.*
 - *Find something in the shape of a circle.*
 - *Find a toy that is red in color.*
13. Discuss shapes in the context of structure and stability, such as triangles in bridges.
 - *How do you think shapes are used in building houses (or cars, furniture, etc.)?*
 - *Which shape is better to place at the bottom? Why?*
14. Experiment with combining shapes to create new shapes or designs.
15. Resize, cut, or fold materials into different shapes.
 - *What happens when you cut a shape in half?*
 - *What happens when you fold the paper?*
 - *How many shapes can you fit inside a big circle/square/triangle/etc.)?*
16. Use paper cutouts to explore concepts like symmetry and fractions.
17. Look for shapes and colors in children's favorite books and art.
18. Make up a story about a shape/color.
19. Create and solve puzzles using different shapes of objects, paper plates, or cut card stock.
20. Explore the properties of shapes in motion and static conditions. Think about practical applications of shapes in everyday life: wheels, boxes, cones, etc.
21. Turn off the lights and create shapes with light sources. Play with shapes and colors on a light table.
22. Explore shapes and colors in the shadows. Project transparent colors onto walls, sheets, paper, or white aprons/clothing.
23. Work together to make different shapes.
 - *How can you work together to make a shape?*