inside + x = ÷ mathematics

Inside Problem Solving

The Shape of Things

PreK

Materials: A scene of the playground, access to individual shapes (cutouts), papers, pencils, color crayons, markers

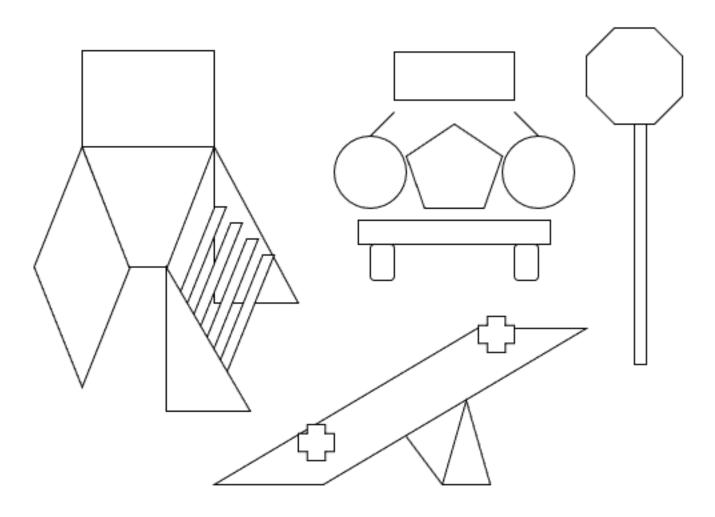
Discussion on the rug: Students have sets of some cut-out shapes in front of them. Teacher holds up the playground scene. "Here is a picture of a playground. What do you notice about the playground? What else do you notice about it?" Teacher continues to ask children to notice different shapes in the play area. The teacher asks the students to find a shape among the ones cut out that is also in the picture. She asks the students to describe the shape. "How can you tell the difference between that shape and another shape? Who knows the name of the shape?"

In small groups: Each group has a playground scene, crayons, pencils or makers, and paper. Teacher asks the students to find all the shapes in the picture. "Draw a picture of the shape you found. Where is the shape in the picture? What is the name of the shape? How do you know that shape? Describe its parts."

At the end of the investigation: Students either discuss or dictate a response to these summary questions. "Pick a shape in the playground. Draw a picture of the shape you found. Where is the shape in the picture? What is the name of the shape? How do you know that shape? Describe its parts."

Inside Problem Solving: The Shape of Things —

A Playground Scene



— Inside Problem Solving: The Shape of Things —