

Color Zoo

by Lois Ehlert

A creative progression of animal faces formed by changing shapes and colors.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *You know how sometimes the clouds look like animals? This book is kind of like that – animal faces are made from different shapes.* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if that is a mouse or a tiger?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and study the shapes as they progress from one animal to another. What shapes were added? Removed? Do the colors help identify the animal?

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What were the first three shapes used? What animal faces were made from those shapes?
- Which shape – the circle, square or triangle – was used in all three faces?
- What were the next three shapes used? What animal faces were made from those shapes?
- Which shape – the rectangle, oval or heart – was used in all three faces?
- What were the last three shapes used? What animal faces were made from those shapes?
- Which shape – the diamond, octagon or hexagon – was used in all three faces?
- Let's try and remember all the different colors that were used on the faces.
- Which animal face was your favorite?

Do

Shape Faces

Cut out a variety of shapes in various colors from construction paper using the shapes and colors from *Color Zoo* as a guide. Give each child their own supply so they can lay out the shapes and make animal faces.

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