

## **Shapes in Nature**

2016 Ms. Cretera's Garden Parents  
Outdoor Lesson #5 - 11.02.2016  
Liz Kelly, Maggie Valentine, Lara Shihab-Eldin

**Objective:** Students identify geometric shapes as they naturally occur in nature. They will also use observation skills and comparative language to express the likenesses and differences of plants/vegetables—and work on listening skills by listening to others explain their views.

**Time/location:** The entire lesson can be done in 30-40 minutes.

**Materials:** Garden notebooks provided, being outdoors, crayons, paper, 5 to 6 gourds/pumpkins

### **The Lesson**

#### **Part 1/Shapes in Nature**

-Read The Biggest Pumpkin Ever by Steve Kroll. Discuss the pumpkins in the book, focusing on shape, stems, size, etc.

-Discussion of shapes in the garden, then pass out paper and have them draw two or three basic shapes. Send them off into the garden to try and find something that has the shape(s) they've drawn—to be added to their garden journals.

-Have everyone come back together and talk about the drawings they made; compare and contrast same-shape drawings.

-Pass out gourds/pumpkins and talk about their shapes—how they're not perfectly oval or round; point out the differences and what makes them interesting.

-If there's time: Have kids draw their own pumpkins or gourd, again highlighting shapes, likenesses/differences with each other's.

#### **Part 2/Movement Activity**

-Break the kids up into two groups where they'll form a circle. Ask the first child to pick a shape and try to form his body into the shape; everyone mimics. Go on down the line so each person gets a chance to express his own shape.





