Finding Circles

Visual literacy is the skill of being able to "read" and "create" images - of being able to attach language and therefore meaning to visual imagery.

This activity is a simple way to encourage very young children and learners with special educational needs to become curious about the world about them. It teaches learners to see the world afresh, and builds engagement and confidence.

Knowledge and Skills Developed:

Observation, Familiarity with Shapes and Shape Names, Visual Literacy, Relationship of 2d to 3d, Recording, Sharing, Reflection

Materials:

This activity can be undertaken without any materials - run it as a verbal shared session indoors or outdoors. But you might also decide to use simple cameras if you have them so pupils can record their observations and discoveries, and print them out for future work. You might also choose to use or **make simple sketchbooks** - either cutting out the images, drawing the circles spotted in their sketchbooks, or even **binding the images together to make a simple sketchbook.**

To Begin:

Decide where the activity will take place - indoors or outdoors. Working in small groups or in pairs, invite pupils to become "explorers" and challenge them to discover as many circles (or squares, rectangles, triangles etc) as they can find. Encourage pupils to push their observation skills to see less obvious circles in their environment.

Pupils can "collect" their observations by taking photographs on tablets, or by making sketches in a sketchbook.

Share back in the classroom using visual aids and conversation. How many circles can you see? Can you see other shapes in the image? What do the shapes remind you of? How do they make you feel/act?

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