

LOAD BEARING SHAPES

Which shape is the strongest? Circle, Triangle, or Square

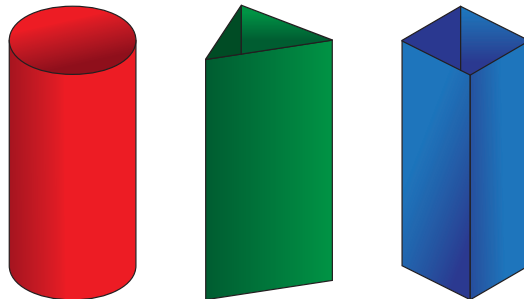
In this activity, students will learn which shaped column will hold the most weight.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 3 sheets of regular 8½" x 11" paper
- tape
- assorted light-weight books

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Form three sheets of regular 8½" x 11" paper into columns shaped like a circle, triangle, and square and secure each with tape.



2. Ask the students which shape they think will hold the most weight when in an upright position.
3. Slowly stack similarly sized books on top of each shape to see which will hold the most.
4. Start with smaller, light-weight books and, perhaps challenge student to try different shapes and sizes of books to determine impact.

