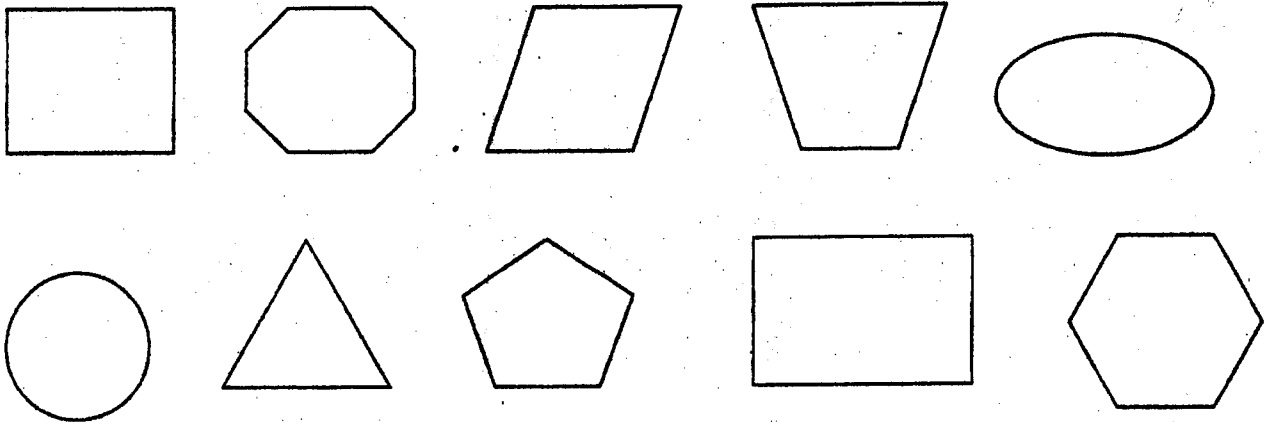


# SHAPES

A shape is a *two-dimensional area that is defined in some way*. A shape may have an outline or a boundary around it, or you may recognize it by its area. For instance, if you draw the outline of a square on a sheet of paper, you have created a shape. You could also create the same shape without an outline by painting the area of the square red.

All shapes can be classified as either *geometric or free-form*. **Geometric shapes are precise shapes that can be described using mathematical formulas.** The basic geometric shapes are the circle, the square, and the triangle. All other geometric shapes are either variations or combinations of these basic shapes.



**Free-form shapes are irregular and uneven shapes.** Their outlines may be curved, angular, or a combination of both. They often occur in nature. Free-form shapes may be silhouettes of living things, such as animals, people, or trees.

