

Animal Portraits



Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Discover More About Grizzly Bears*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax2qGaBh5-8>



Skills

- Making observations
- Fine Motor Skills
- Shape recognition



Math Concepts / Standards

- Reason with shapes and their attributes
- Recognize lines of symmetry
- Spatial sense

NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- Matching and sorting skills



Experience

- 5-10 minutes
- 1 or more people

Explore geometry skills by observing an animal closely to learn their different features. What shapes would best describe each of their features? Compare the size of their features and think about the different sizes of each shape. Create these different shapes and move them around to make a portrait of a grizzly bear.



Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

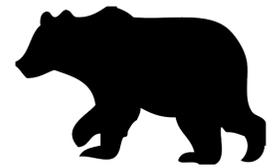
As part of the Detroit Zoological Society's commitment to ensuring individual animals experience great welfare, a significant expansion of three grizzly bear brothers' habitat was undertaken in 2018. The brothers were rescued after they were found orphaned in Alaska, in 2011.



Take Action

Closely observing animals builds understanding and reverence, helping us to appreciate and protect wildlife and wild places. Take time to observe an animal and note the characteristics that make them an individual. Share your observations or portraits with a friend and tell the personal story of that animal.

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Tools

Construction paper

Scissors

Glue

1 or more people

Directions

- Choose a portrait of an individual animal, observe that animal, focusing on their features.
- What shapes best describes each of their features? Look at their eyes, ears, head shape as you decide.
- Cut shapes in different sizes.
- Move the shapes around, playing around with size and shape, to recreate a portrait of an animal.
- Glue your pieces down on a larger sheet to complete your artwork.

Notes - This activity can be adjusted for limited materials by focusing on drawing animals using shapes.