

## Shapes, shapes, shapes ( 3rd and 4th Class)

**Resources:** A selection of 2-D shapes, branching database template

**Strands:** Data, shape and space

**Activity:** This task looks at the similarities and differences between 2-D shapes. Explain to pupils that we are going to use a branching database to sort the shapes. A branching database uses questions to help distinguish the shapes. Show pupils the branching database template and read the first question. Ask pupils to decide where the shapes should go and sort them accordingly. Some pupils could complete the branching database independently and others may benefit from working in pairs or in a teacher led group. Continue to sort all the shapes according to the questions provided.

**Questions:** Why does this shape not go over there?  
What's the same and what's different between these two shapes?

### Challenge Questions:

- What other shapes, that are not here, could fit into this branching database?
- Could you sort the shapes and questions a different way?

### Variations:

1. Pupils could have some or none of the questions placed on the branching database so that they need to sort the shapes and the questions. The shapes could be arranged at the end of the branching database and pupils must arrange the questions in accordance with where the shapes are placed.
2. Pupils are given the shapes and they must devise questions to sort them. Pupils sort a collection of 2-D and 3-D shapes using the branching database.



