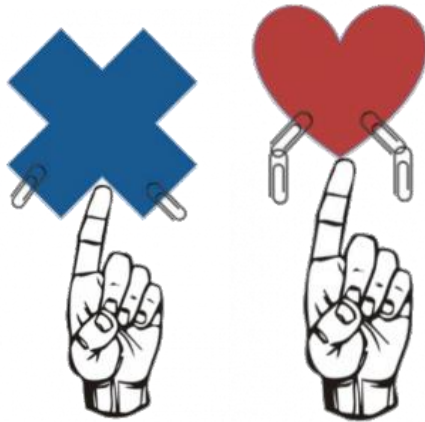


Activity 2: Shape Circus

In this activity, your students balance irregular shapes on their fingers.



Supplies

- poster board or tag board
- paperclips
- scissors

When

Though this activity can be used before students play *PuppyBot Rescue*, it may work better after students are better able to predict changes in stability.

Steps

1. Supply students with paperclips and paper board.
2. Have your students cut large shapes from the paper. These shapes do not have to be standard or symmetrical. In fact, shapes with acute angles and large protrusions can be easier to work with.
3. Challenge your students to stand their paper shape on the tip of one finger and balance it as long as they can.
4. Then allow them to attach paperclips anywhere on the shape to help them balance it. If students continue to attach paperclips symmetrically, remind

them how, when playing *PuppyBot Rescue*, they added weight on only one side to balance the beam.

5. Next, have students cut out a shape they think would be easier to balance on one finger. Challenge them to use fewer paperclips than they did with the previous shape to balance the shape on their finger.
6. Finally, allow students to share their two shapes with classmates and try to perform tricks of balance. Balancing a valentine shape on its tip, for example, is difficult but looks impressive.