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THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA

PALEY EDUCATION @Home
presented by **citi**
What We're Watching



Greetings from The Paley Center for Media's Education Department!

Welcome to the latest installment of "What We're Watching." Twice a month the education department reaches out to the community with tips and ideas for consuming media with kids by highlighting different themes that connect to two selected programs, one for younger viewers and one for older viewers, each with related activities and resources.

Watching media alongside your kids is a perfect jumping-off point to making media literacy a part of your everyday lives. Familiarizing yourself with the basics is a great first step. You can [view our first newsletter about media literacy best practices archived here](#). We also recommend the [National](#)

[Association for Media Literacy Education's Parents Guide](#)—it's a terrific introduction!

What We're Watching: Math: All the Cool Kids Are Doing It

Q: What did the triangle say to the circle? A: You're so pointless! Haha. Jokes aside, it is no laughing matter that so many students are still struggling with math due to lingering effects from the pandemic. With the New York state math test fast approaching we thought it was the perfect time to share television shows that make math fun, and help young learners better understand how math is part of everything we do.

This Week's Recommendations for Younger Viewers

Shape Island: "Triangle Day" (2022)

Recommended for Grades PK+

Available on AppleTV+

Serious Square, intrepid Circle, and tricky Triangle embark on silly adventures as they dig up some fun, search for answers, and build on their friendships, all while learning how to navigate each other's differences. In this Triangle-focused episode it's triangle day and Circle and Square learn to celebrate this unique holiday.

Viewing Questions

- What characters do we meet on Shape Island? What are the names of each character and how do their names relate to how they look?
- What does Triangle announce to Circle and Square at the beginning of the episode?
- What different things does Triangle make Square and Circle do for "Triangle Day"?
- How do they feel about doing these things and why?
- As you watched the episode, how many different objects did you see that were shaped like a triangle? Name the different foods at the triangle day party that were shaped like a triangle.
- What kind of personality does Triangle have? How is he different from Circle and Square?
- Which shape do you like best and why?

Extension Activity

Start a shape sketchbook! In *Shape Island* the three characters are all geometric shapes: circle, square, and triangle. Next time you are at home on a rainy day, use that time to explore your home and find objects that are in the shape of circles, squares, and triangles. Collect several objects in a bag. Once your bag is full, sketch each item in a notebook and label what each item is.

Carry your notebook around with you so that the next time you see something shaped like a circle, square, or triangle you can add a new drawing to your shape sketchbook.

Additional Resources

Read

The Greedy Triangle by Marilyn Burns

Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes by Roseanne Thong

The Shapes Trilogy by Mac Barnett

Tangled: A Story about Shapes by Anne Miranda

We Are the Shapes by Kevin Jenner

Watch

Cyberchase (2002–)

Monster Math Squad (2012–)

Peg + Cat (2013–18)

Team Umizoomi (2010–15)



This Week's Recommendations for Older Viewers

The Eddie Files: "Welcome to Math, You Gotta Start Somewhere" (1995)

Recommended for Grades 3+

[Available on YouTube](#)

Who is Eddie, and how were his files born? In this incredibly fun show from the 1990s, it's the first week of school in math teacher Kay Toliver's class in East Harlem. The assignment: find out about jobs that people have and how they use math. Eddie's father gives him a camera and Vincent, the local photo shop owner, takes Eddie under his wing. Eddie takes his camera along as he tackles his math assignment, and his files "take off." Along the way he meets a judge, a dancer, a restaurant owner, a telephone technician, a sunglasses designer, and a TV director. He also consults his Aunt Rosa. Eddie's work brings glowing praise from "Miss T," and a real awareness that math is everywhere.

Viewing Questions

- How do the students in Eddie's class feel about math class as the show begins?
- What does Ms. Toliver have her students do at the beginning of their first class?
- What do they discover about the objects in the bag?
- What assignment does she give the class next?
- Who does Eddie talk to for the assignment?
- What different jobs does Eddie learn about during this episode? How does each person use math in their job?
- How does Eddie organize his photos and information to share with Ms. T at the end? What does he call his first file?
- What does Eddie learn about math by the end of the assignment?

Additional Resources

Read

Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions by Edwin A. Abbott

The King's Chessboard by David Birch

Math Curse by Jon Scieszka

Watch

Odd Squad (2014–2022)

[Ted-Ed: Is Math Discovered or Invented?](#)

[Ted-Ed: Pixar: The Math Behind the Movies](#)

[Ted-Ed: Why Do People Get so Anxious About Math?](#)

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to us at eduny@paleycenter.org.

Happy viewing,

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Manager of Education

Photos—*Shape Island*: Bix Pix Entertainment; *The Eddie Files*: FASE Productions





NYC High School Students: Apply for a paid, media-focused internship

Application deadline: April 16

Teen Transmitters is a paid 100-hour summer internship for rising 11th and 12th grade students who attend New York City public high schools. This summer 2023 internship will last five weeks, meeting four times a week and is in-person at the Paley Center in Manhattan.

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