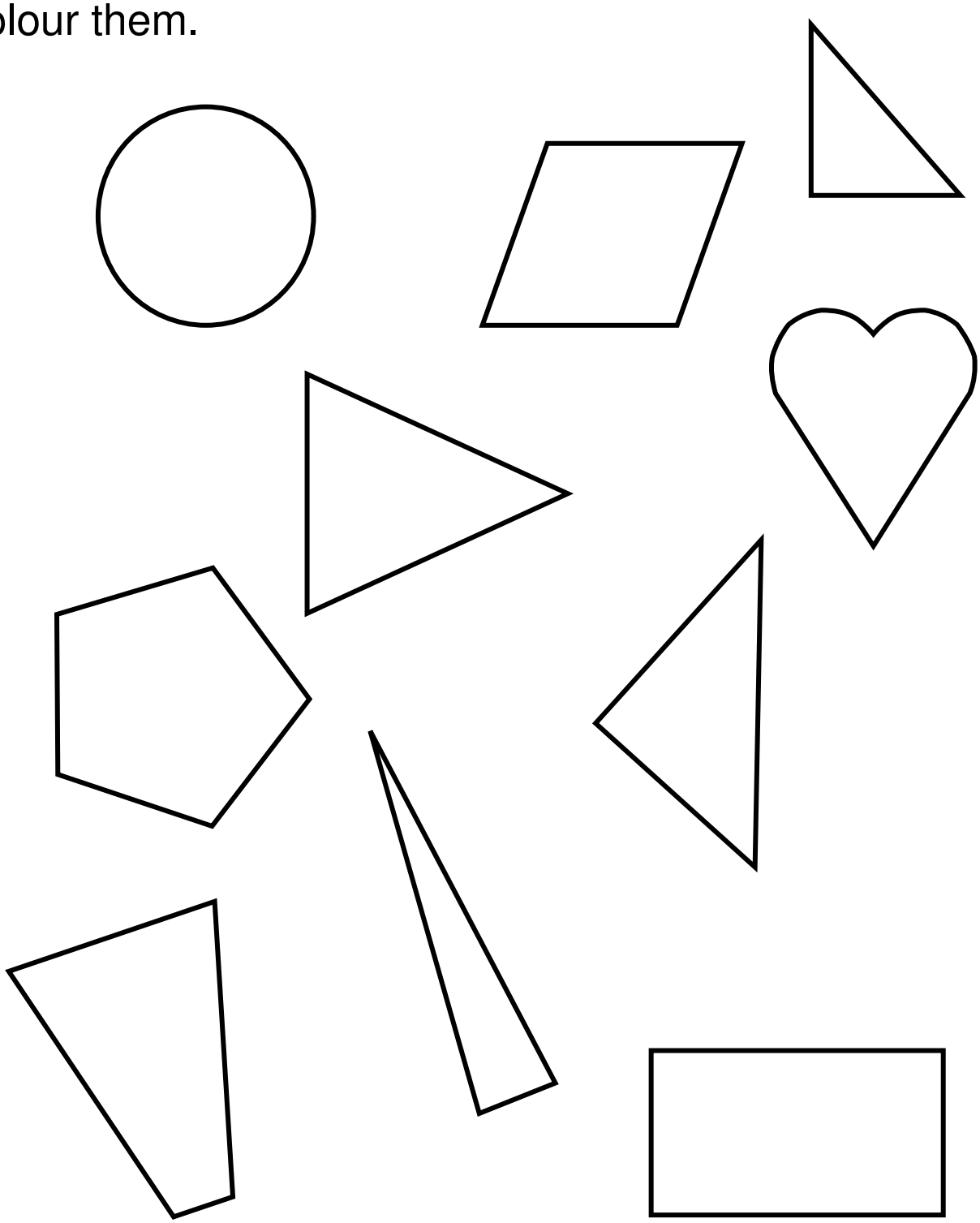
Which of these shapes are **triangles**?

Colour them.



Suggestions for activities with 2-D shapes.

Throughout all this work, place great emphasis on the vocabulary of the names of the shapes plus words such as side and angle. A good grasp of the vocabulary in the early years will be a great asset in future mathematical education.

1. Sort shapes into groups according to their properties such as:
   Do they have angles?
   Do they have three sides?
   Do they have more than three sides?
   Are all the sides the same length?
   Are all the sides straight?
   Are the angles all the same size?
   Do they have short sides and long sides?

2. Hide a shape behind your back or a partner's back. Let the child or other partner ask questions until they can say what the shape is.

3. Put several shapes on a tray. Remove one when the child's eyes are closed. The child then looks and tries to say which shape is missing.

4. Put a range of shapes in order of the number of sides.

5. Have a 'feely bag' in which you place a shape or shapes. The child puts his/her hand inside and tries to identify the shape.

6. Using Play dough or plasticine, use cutters to make 2-D shapes or make these from pastry, cook them and eat them. Do the squares taste better than the circles? (Essential for children to be able to identify similarities - shape makes no difference to taste - as well as differences)

7. Draw the shapes onto blank playing cards (or write the names for good readers). Draw one card at random and identify the shape from a pile on the table. How quickly can the child do this?

8. Examine patterns involving shapes on tiles, curtains and clothes etc.

9. Make shapes from thin dough sausages and copy them onto paper with a pencil.