

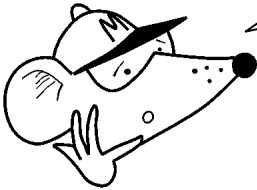
3501-01 recognise prisms (pg 1)

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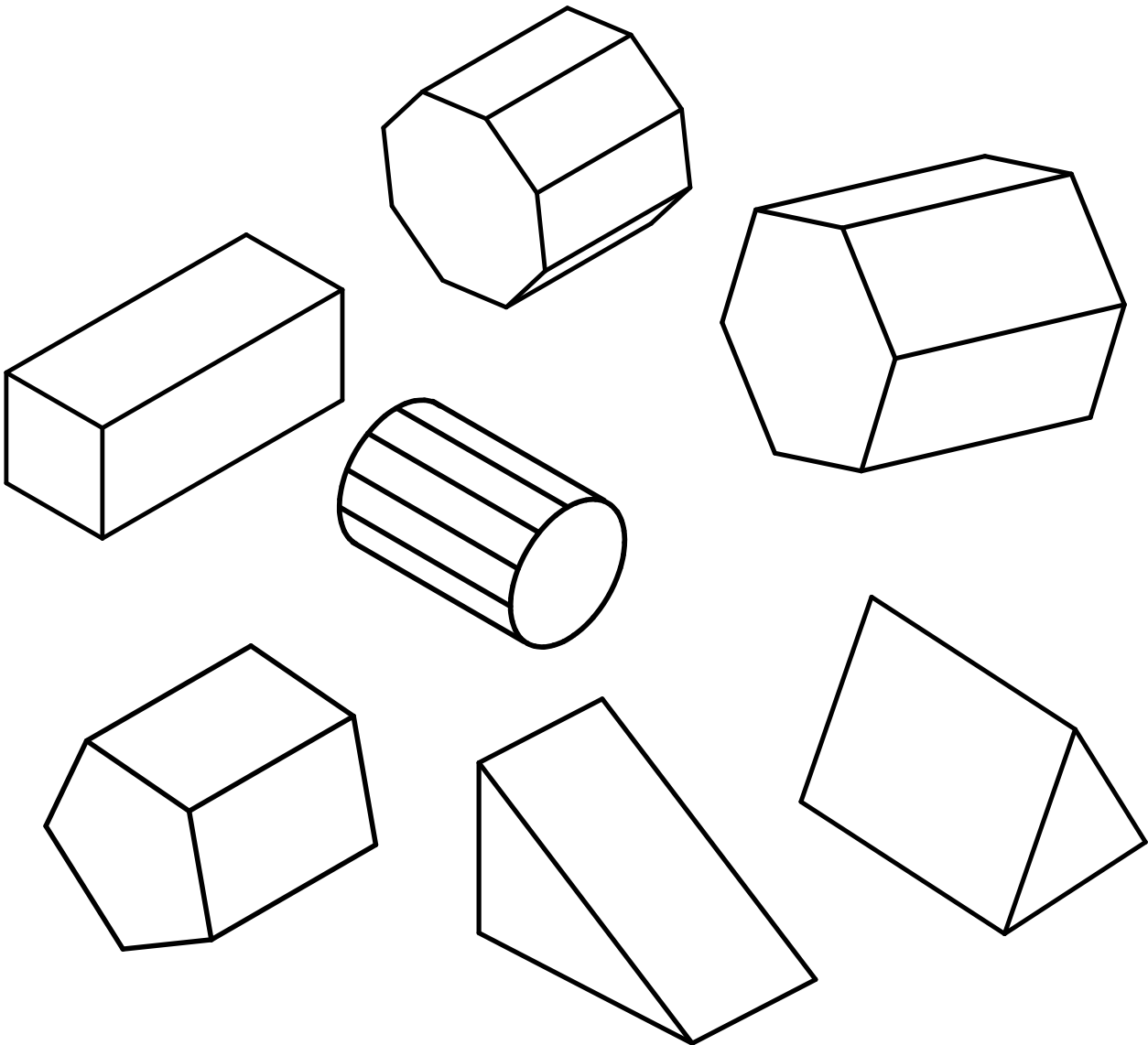
Divvy, do you know what a **prism** is?



Isn't that a place where naughty Maths Rats have to go?



No silly, that's a prison. A **prism** is a solid that is the same shape and size all the way down like these below:



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In **3-D shape** work, the main new concept is that of a prism. A prism is a shape that has the same cross-section and same size throughout its length. Some shapes such as cones and square based pyramids have the same shape throughout their length (ie circle and square respectively), but they are not prisms because the size of the circle or square changes as you move from one end to the other.

There are many near prisms in real life (e.g. rulers, pencils, cans, chocolate boxes, rolls of sticky tape and exercise books), although they often have a small part such as the point of a pencil which prevents it being a pure prism. Children can generally be taught to ignore these annoying parts that manufacturers will insist on adding to spoil our maths lessons!