SIMPLE? YOU BET, BUT IT HELPS

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If you have seen the film *Crows, Sets and Infinity*, you will realize that these ideas are not original. However, there is adaptation to the class with overhead projector.

We cut a series of geometric shapes from colored acetate sheets, each shape being not more than 1" long or ½" wide. In our set we used all quadrilateral forms and some other odd polygons. The shapes were cut from blue, red, orange and green acetate.

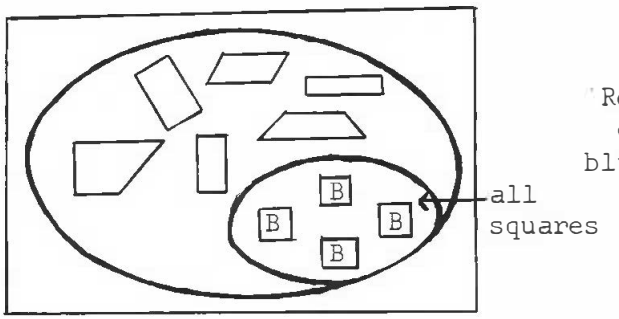
The first use we made of the shapes was to spill a variety on the overhead projector table and sort them out into sets by description. For example, the blue rectangles may be moved to one side and circled. Here we showed that the members of a set form "a definite collection of objects" (S.T.M.I., page 10).

Subsets may be developed in a similar manner when the set of quadrilaterals is placed on the table. The squares can be moved to one side and circled. A first idea of Venn diagrams will appear (see Sketch 1).

These geometric shapes can also be very useful in showing the relationships between types of quadrilateral.

Furthermore, we found that slight care in cutting the original shapes will provide an aid in the development of formulae. An example would be the ½ (a) (b) for triangles by moving the blue on top of the red (Sketch 2).

Sketch 1



Sketch 2