The feely box

Feely box

A feely box is used to 'visualise' a solid shape by touching it, but without seeing it. It may be appropriate to use a feely box more often with younger children, but older secondary-school students enjoy it very much occasionally.

Put some different flat plastic shapes in the box and ask students to answer these questions for each one.

1. How many vertices does it have?
2. How many sides does it have?
3. Does it have any symmetry?
4. What is its name?

Three-dimensional shapes can also be used in the box. The exercise can be extended if some of the solids can be combined within the box to form another shape.

Students can be asked to work as a group if one of them describes what she or he feels and the others try to name the shape without using the questions above.