

## Ages 3+ • 160 Object Images

The human impulse to search for faces — even in places they do not exist, is as old as the Man in the Moon. *About Face* features die cut cards that can be arranged to create millions of surprising faces. Rather than eyes, noses, mouths and hair, the photographs depict simple objects found on city streets or at the seashore: discarded man-made items, or bits of plants or seashells. In the context of one another, these simple objects are transformed into countless faces that stretch the imagination and exercise the eye.

Recognizing unlikely faces is inherently satisfying, but there is an educational value in pursuing this drive. This activity helps us to think and look more carefully at the faces around us, (a skill we can all learn from) while encouraging the imaginative transformation of one thing into something else it resembles, a fundamental first principle of creativity. Have fun as you develop visual imagination and metaphorical thinking.

By enjoying an activity that creatively recycles unwanted or "useless" materials, we hope that *About Face* will also inspire you to find fresh, imaginative uses for the overlooked things that are all about you in your world.

## Play alone or with friends — some ideas:

- Sort the images by category. Make faces using only natural materials, only items found near the shore, only man-made things, only metal items, only smooth materials, only brightly colored things, etc.
- Try making faces using objects that seem to be the most different from one another.
- Create a portrait of someone you know (or yourself!) by choosing the objects that best evoke your subject.
- Draw pictures of the faces that you create.
- Think of other objects that could stand in for eyes, noses, mouths, hair. Collect your own objects.
- Keep on the lookout for accidental faces all around you!