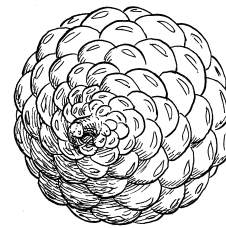# Shapes
in Nature

Archimedes devoted much of his life to the study of geometry. He was fascinated with shapes. Many of the shapes he studied can be found in nature.

Archimedes' Spiral

Archimedes mathematically described the constant windings in a simple spiral. This shape can be found on the bottom of a pinecone.
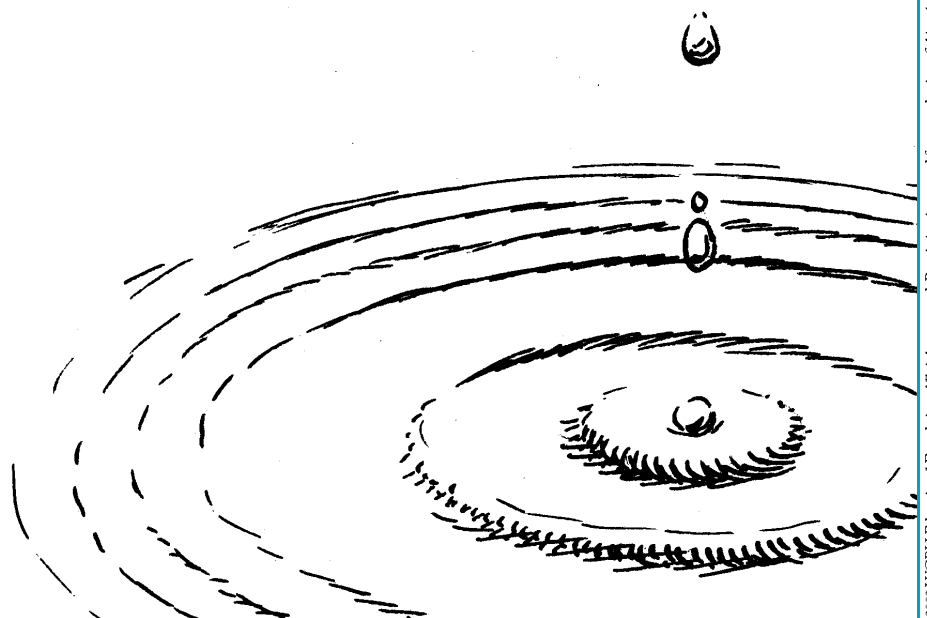
Sphere

Archimedes studied spheres. He showed that the volume of a sphere is two-thirds that of a cylinder that encloses it. Spheres can be found on a grand scale in the shape of planets.

Circle

Archimedes is probably best the ratio of a circle's circumf in nature, such as the ripples

Find out more on
Infinite Secrets
On PBS September 30, 2003
at 8:00 p.m.

Check your local listings as
dates and times may vary.
www.pbs.org/nova/archimedes