

Tangrams

Activity 1 - Making Tangrams

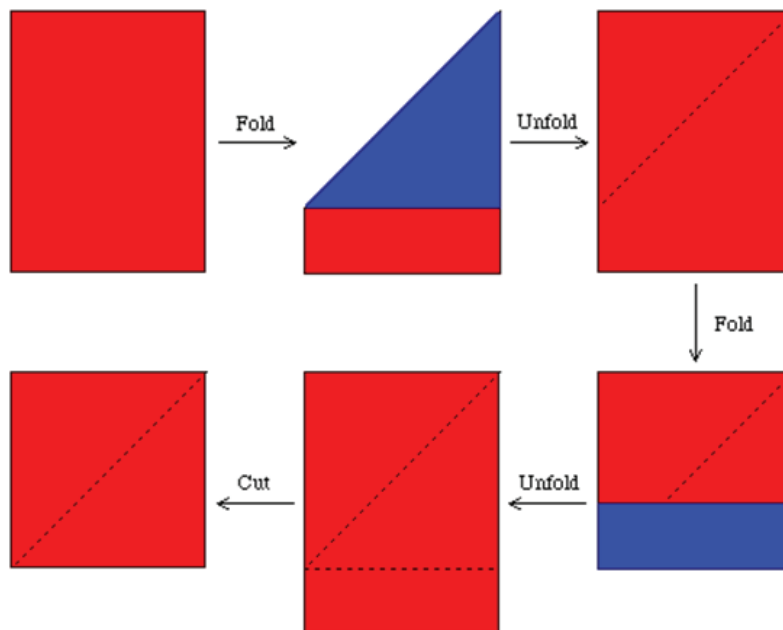


A tangram is an ancient Chinese puzzle. According to legend, a scholar named Tan discovered the game by accidentally dropping a square porcelain tile and breaking it into seven geometric pieces.

The seven tangram pieces are: two congruent small triangles (equal to each other in shape and size), two large congruent triangles, one medium sized triangle, one small square, and one parallelogram. These seven pieces form a complete tangram puzzle. You can see how these pieces fit into a square.

For this activity you will need: a rectangular piece of a paper that can be folded, scissors and a ruler.

1. Fold a rectangular piece of paper so that a square is formed. Cut off the extra flap.

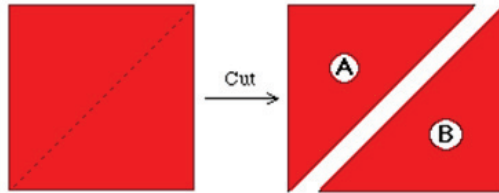


Can you believe THIS is math?

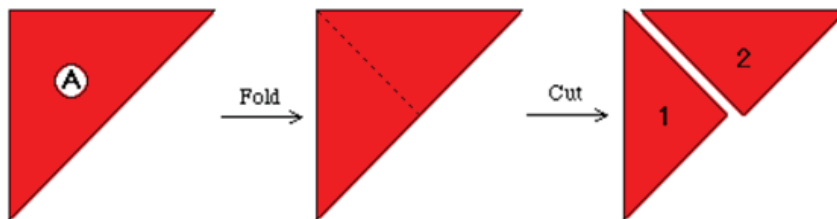
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Activity 1 - Making Tangrams - *continued*

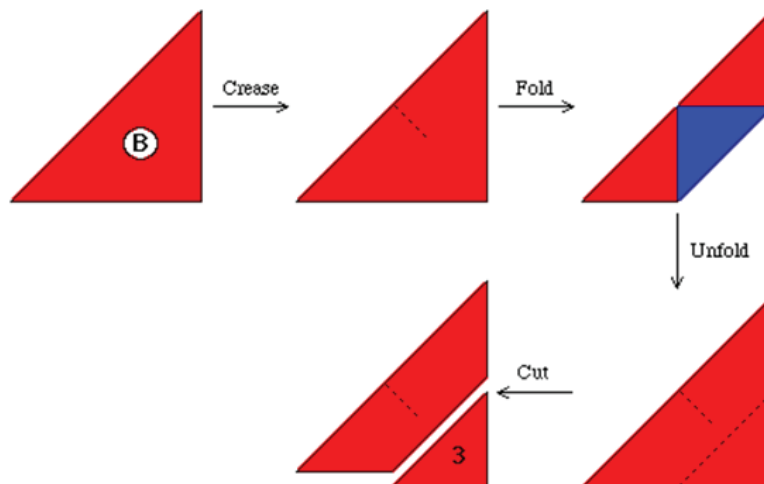
2. Cut the square into two triangles



3. Take one triangle and fold it in half. Cut the triangle along the fold into two smaller triangles.



4. Take the other triangle and crease it in the middle. Fold the corner of the triangle opposite the crease and cut.

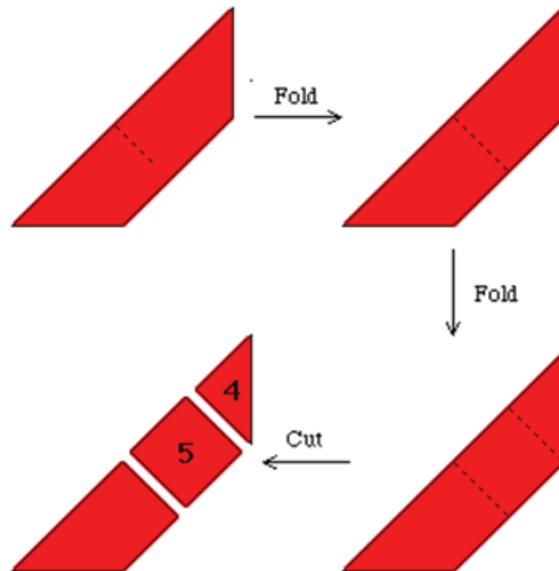


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Activity 1 - Making Tangrams - *continued*

5. Fold the trapezoid in half and fold again. Cut along both folds.



6. Fold the remaining small trapezoid and cut it in two.



After you have created your tangram pieces, try making different shapes with different combinations of pieces. Try to find some designs of your own.

Can you believe THIS is math?