

Tangrams

Activity 5 - Flower 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, make sure you make two sets of tangrams.

Making tangram flowers is a geometric arts and crafts project, which the whole family can enjoy. Your flower design can be as simple or as complicated as you wish. All you need are several sets of tangram puzzles (or one set that you can use as a template) and you are ready to get started!

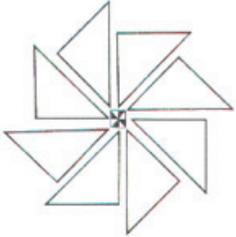
- First look at the examples given on the following page and try to create them yourself. Try to invent your own designs and create them.
- You can use one set of tangrams and trace the tangram pieces onto a sheet of paper (you can trace the same shape or different shapes many times in a configuration that looks like a flower). After you've created the outline of your flower, you can create your own designs by colouring the tans.
- Or, you can also trace and cut out tangram pieces from construction paper. After you've got all your tans, arrange them in a configuration that looks like a flower. Then take a piece of cardstock paper of a contrasting colour and glue your flower on top.
- Remember that you can rotate, flip or slide the tangram shapes when you trace them to help you create beautiful symmetrical flowers.
- You can make greeting cards using your tangram flowers. Use a piece of coloured cardstock paper and fold it in half. Glue your flower design on the face of the card. Write your greeting on the inside and give it to someone special.

Can you believe THIS is math?

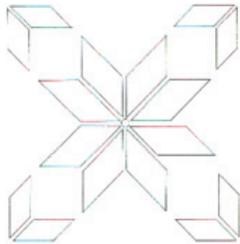
Tangrams

Activity 5 - Flower Tangrams - *continued*

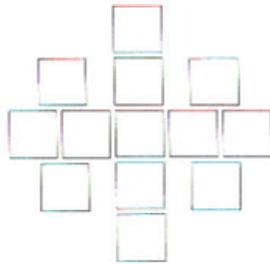
Flower Tangram Examples:



Using Only Triangles

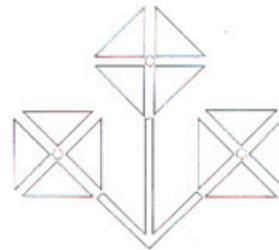


Using Only Parallelograms

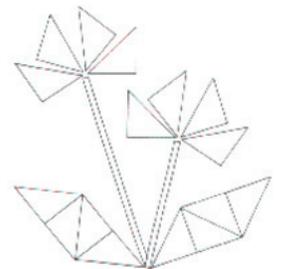


Using Only Squares

Using Only Triangles and drawing the stems and centres



Using Only Triangles and drawing the stems



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