

About Tangrams...

What is a tangram?

A Tangram is a seven piece puzzle formed from a specific set of shapes that can be arranged to form a square. The pieces may be rearranged to form figures that are geometrical, like triangles or parallelograms, or representational, like a running person, a fish, a boat, a cat, etc. There are thousands of Tangram shapes.

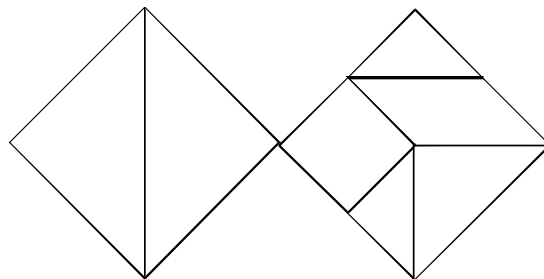
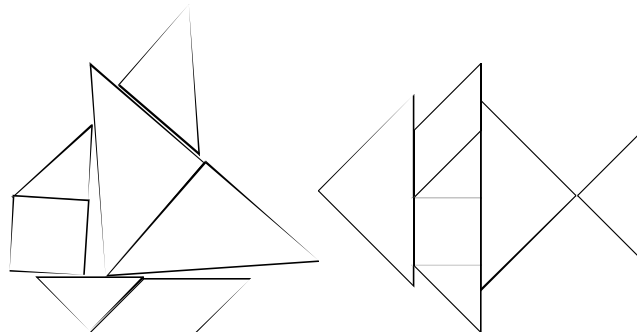
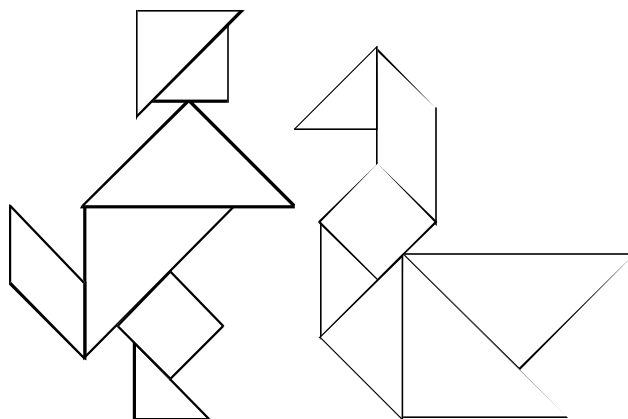
The rules of a Tangram are:

- Must use all seven pieces.
- All pieces must be flat (not standing or three dimensional).
- The pieces can't overlap.

In Chinese, the Tangram game is called "ch'I ch'ae pan" or "Seven-Board of Cunning."

One legend says that the Tangram game was invented when a man named Tan dropped a square tile and it broke into 7 pieces. It was difficult for him to put the pieces back together as a square. As he tried he created figures of animals and buildings.

Solutions...



Lunchbox Math Bytes

*easy to digest mathematics for
your lunchbox*

Tangrams

You will need to pack:

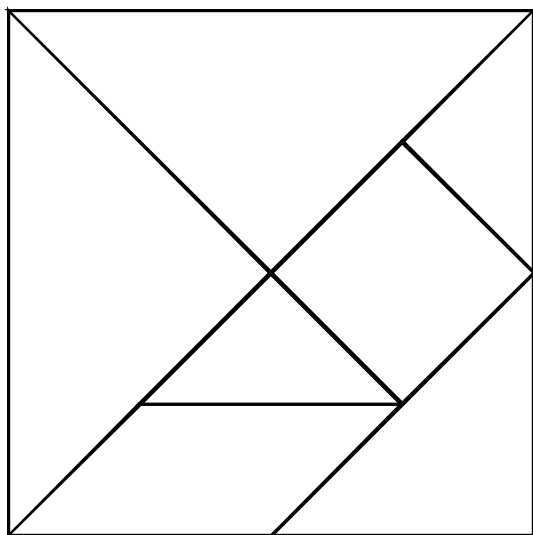
- 1 Slice (or more) of square processed cheese
- 1 Piece of Waxed Paper
- 1 Plastic Knife

References

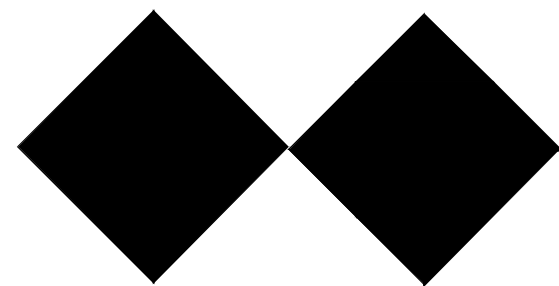
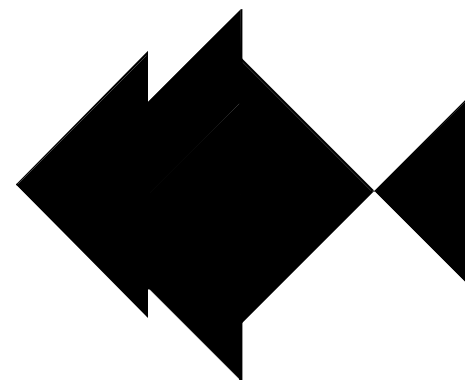
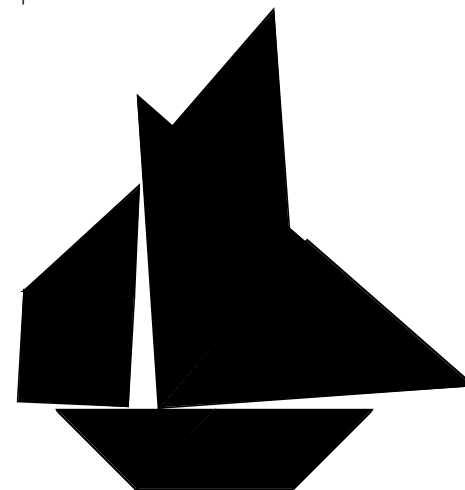
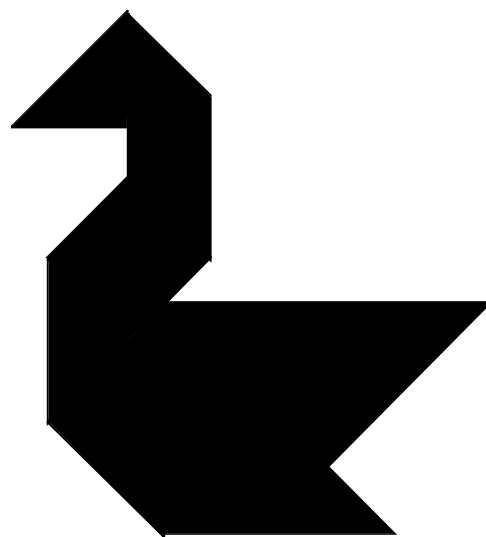
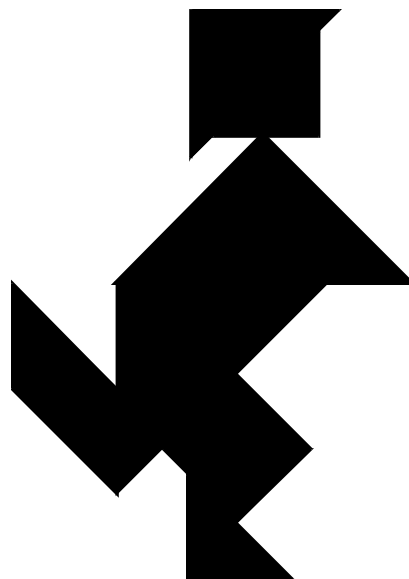
"Tangram: The Ancient Chinese Shapes Game" by Joost Elffers, Penguin Books, 1988.

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Making Tangrams



With the plastic knife, cut the cheese along the lines shown above. Then rearrange the 7 pieces of cheese to create the figures. Make up your own Tangram figures for your friends to solve.



This shape can also be used as a template for cutting the process cheese. Use two slices to cut the 7 pieces and you can create larger figures.