

Tangram Puzzle

A tangram is an old Chinese tile game that consists of seven geometric shapes, called Tans (a square, 5 triangles and a parallelogram). The shapes can be used to form various shapes and designs.

Materials: A tangram square puzzle printed on card stock and cut out for each person participating in a group. There is a small version of one below. You can download and print the full size version from <http://math.about.com>. You may also want to make your own version.

Objective: To use problem solving skill, see another person's perspective, use directive vocabulary, and cooperate within a group.

A square puzzle is made for each member of a group. The more members in the group the more difficult the task becomes. This should be considered when regulating the difficulty level. You may also want to consider if the group gets a preview of the square or not. The puzzle pieces for the squares are mixed in the center of the table and then evenly handed out again. The group is told to make as many squares as possible by trading pieces and working together.

