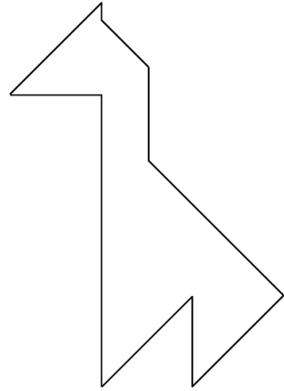


Fun with Tangrams

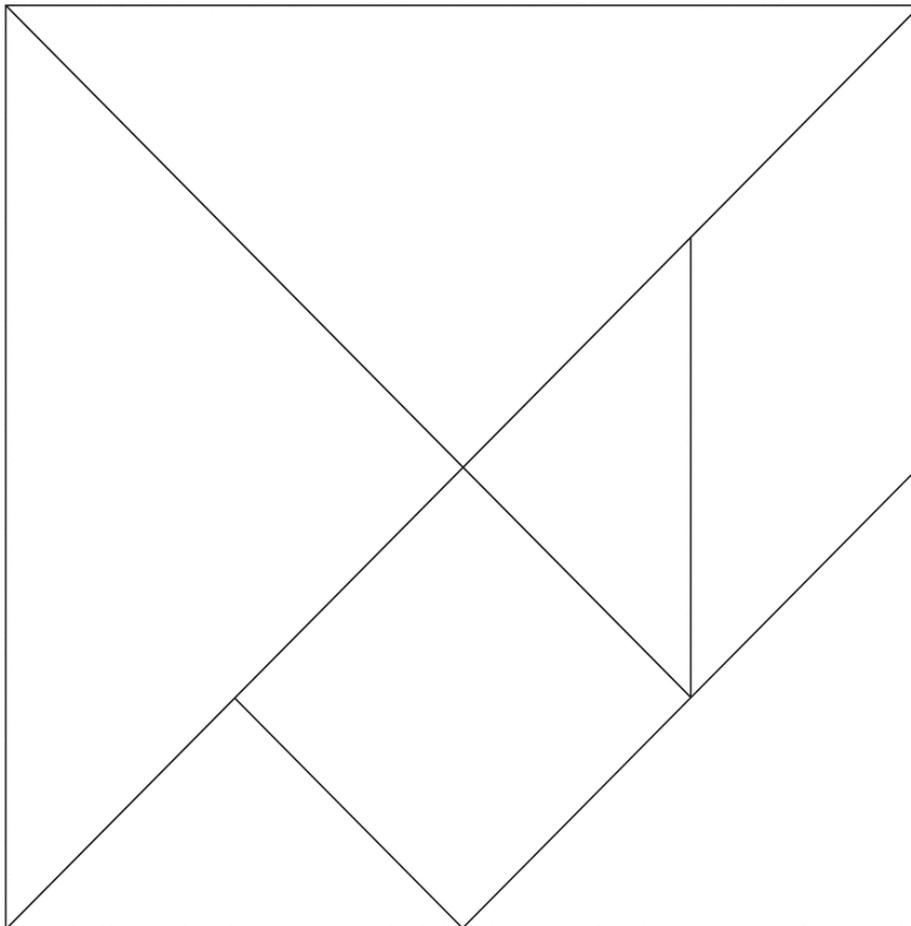
Tangrams are puzzles that came to us from China, but we don't know exactly how old they are. There are several explanations for the name of the puzzle. Some people think that it comes from the word *t'ang*, meaning Chinese. Others say that it comes from *tanka*, the river dwellers with whom Western sailors had dealings with when the Chinese government strictly limited all contact with foreigners. A tangram puzzle pieces set consists of seven geometrical pieces – five triangles (two small, one medium and two large), a square and a parallelogram. The pieces are cut from one large square.

Pieces are put together such that they make some sort of shape, object, animal, number, letter or something else. The challenge involves looking at an outline of the created object and then putting all seven the tangram pieces to create the object.

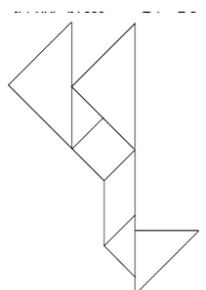
To the right is an outline of a giraffe puzzle. See if you can create it using the seven tangram pieces. A set of puzzle pieces are printed below for you to cut out and then use in solving the giraffe puzzle and those on additional pages. Record your answers on the pages by drawing the puzzle pieces inside the puzzle outline. The answer to the giraffe example is at the bottom of this page. (NOTE: If you want to make a more durable set of tangrams, cut the large square out, glue it to a piece of cereal box, let the glue dry and then cut out the pieces).



Tangram Puzzle Piece Set -7 pieces



DIRECTIONS: Carefully cut along the lines above to create the seven pieces of a tangram puzzle set.



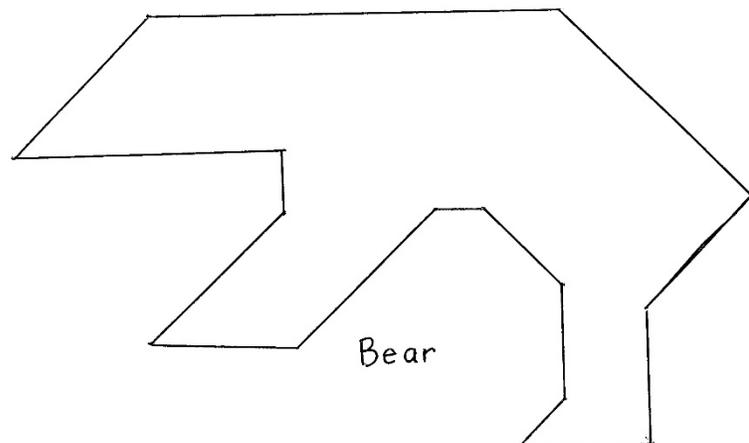
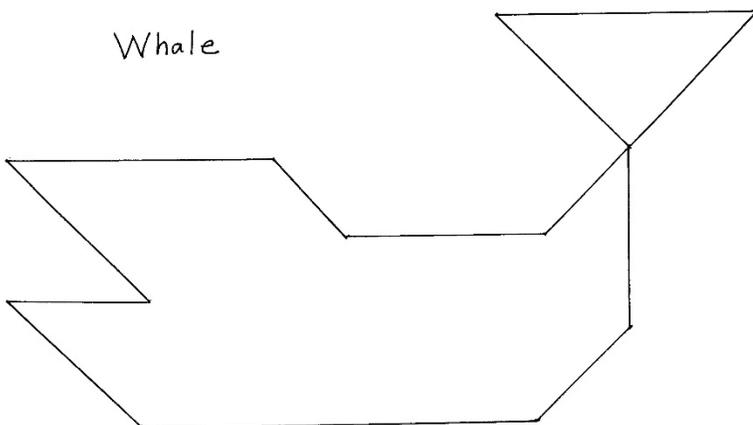
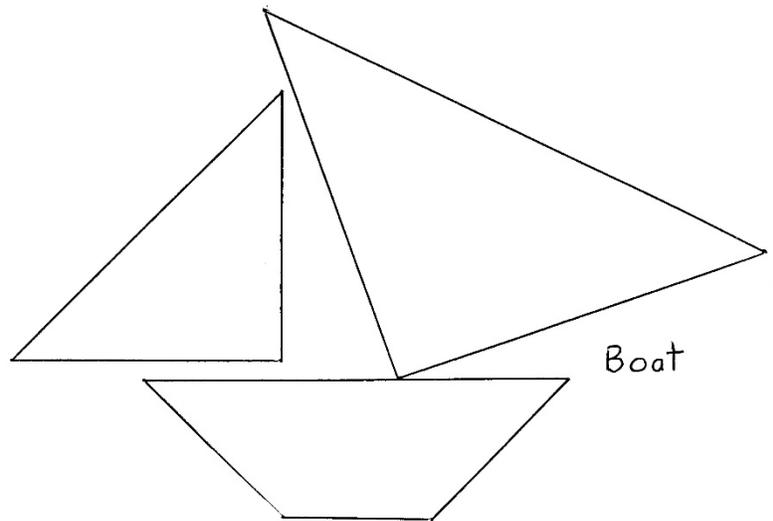
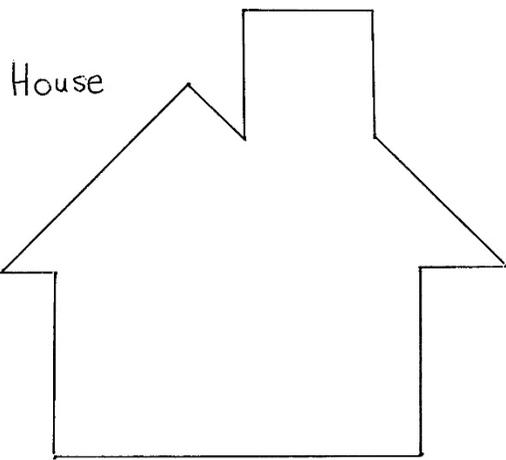
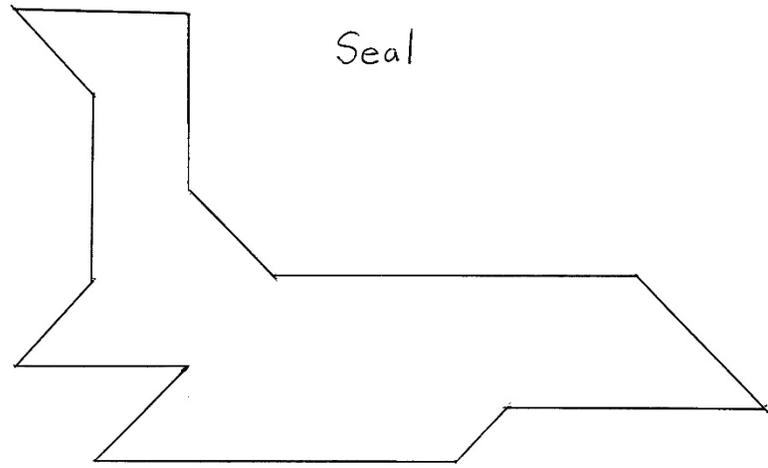
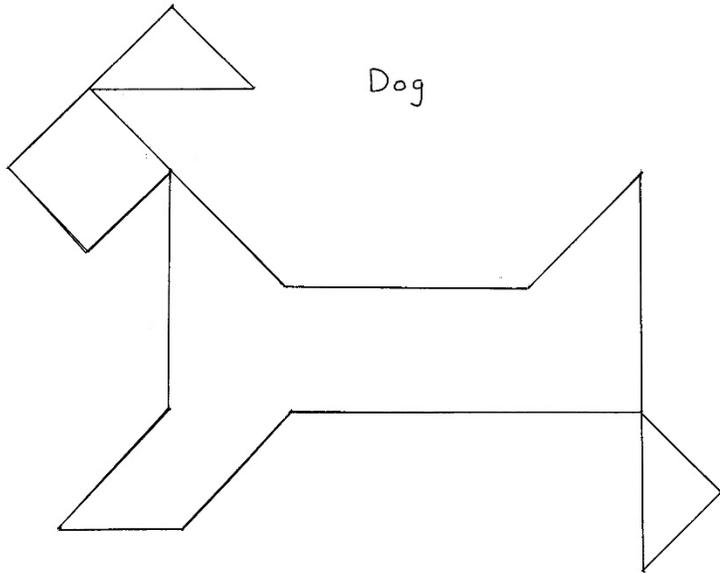
Tangram Puzzle Set 1

Name _____

Recording Sheet

Date _____

Use your tangram pieces to build the figures below. Then draw tangram pieces onto the figures below so that someone could look at your drawing and easily build the figures.



Tangram Puzzle Set 2

Name _____

Recording Sheet

Date _____

Use your tangram pieces to build the figures below. Then draw tangram pieces onto the figures below so that someone could look at your drawing and easily build the figures.

