



Project Idea: Make Tangrams

Recommended for Step 3: Learn about composition, Choice 1: Explore shape and form

Setup: For hundreds of years, people have been using tangrams to make pictures. They're a set of seven shapes, including a square, five triangles, and a parallelogram.

Materials needed:

- Safety scissors
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Marker and a piece of paper, card stock, thin cardboard, or craft foam (optional)

Activity:

1. Cut carefully along the lines to create your tangram shapes.
 2. Count to make sure you have seven shapes: a square, five triangles (two small, one medium, and two large), and a parallelogram.
 3. Color in the shapes with markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
 4. Optional: Trace around the tangrams on the other material (paper, foam, etc.) and cut out the shapes.
 5. Arrange your tangrams to create pictures. Can you make a plant, animal, or building? Can you make pictures with just the triangles or just the square? How many different pictures can you make? What is the positive and negative space?
- **For more fun:** Play with the scale of your pictures. Measure the shapes with a ruler in inches. Then measure and draw the same shape using centimeters. For example, if your square was 2 inches on each side, measure and draw a square that is 2 centimeters on each side.

