

Geometry: TANGRAMS (6-8)

KEY CONCEPTS:

- **Geometry** is the branch of math concerned with the properties and relations of points, lines, surfaces and solids. Think of it as all about shapes.
- Tangrams date back to an ancient Chinese legend, during the Tang Dynasty (618–906 CE)
- Tangrams include 7 shapes: 2 large triangles, 2 small triangles, 1 medium triangle, 1 square, 1 parallelogram
- A **parallelogram** is a four-sided shape rectilinear figure with opposite sides parallel. A square, rectangle, rhombus and rhomboid are all parallelograms.



Figure 1: Tang Dynasty

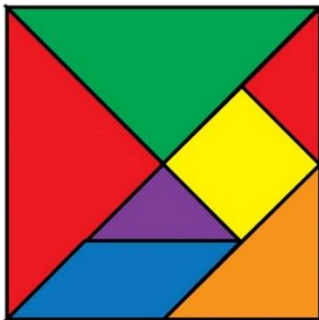
LITERACY CONNECTION:

There are books available online for free through the Open Library, like [Tang Dynasty Stories](#) by Hsien-Yang and Gladys Yang.

Find more resources on tangrams, including the original legend, at [The Tangram Channel](#).

ACTIVITY: TANGRAMS

Materials: scissors, square piece of paper/cardboard, TANGRAM outline, ruler/straightedge



1. Print out the TANGRAM pattern – OR –
draw one on a piece of paper

TIP: Draw a square with 5-inch sides to get you started

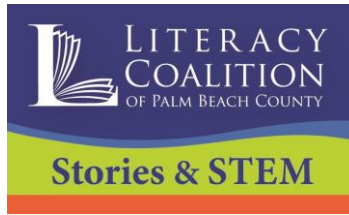
2. Color the shapes (different colors if you want)
3. Cut out the shapes
4. Create NEW pictures using all seven shapes!

EXPLORE: Create a story using the tangram pieces to create images that illustrate the tale.

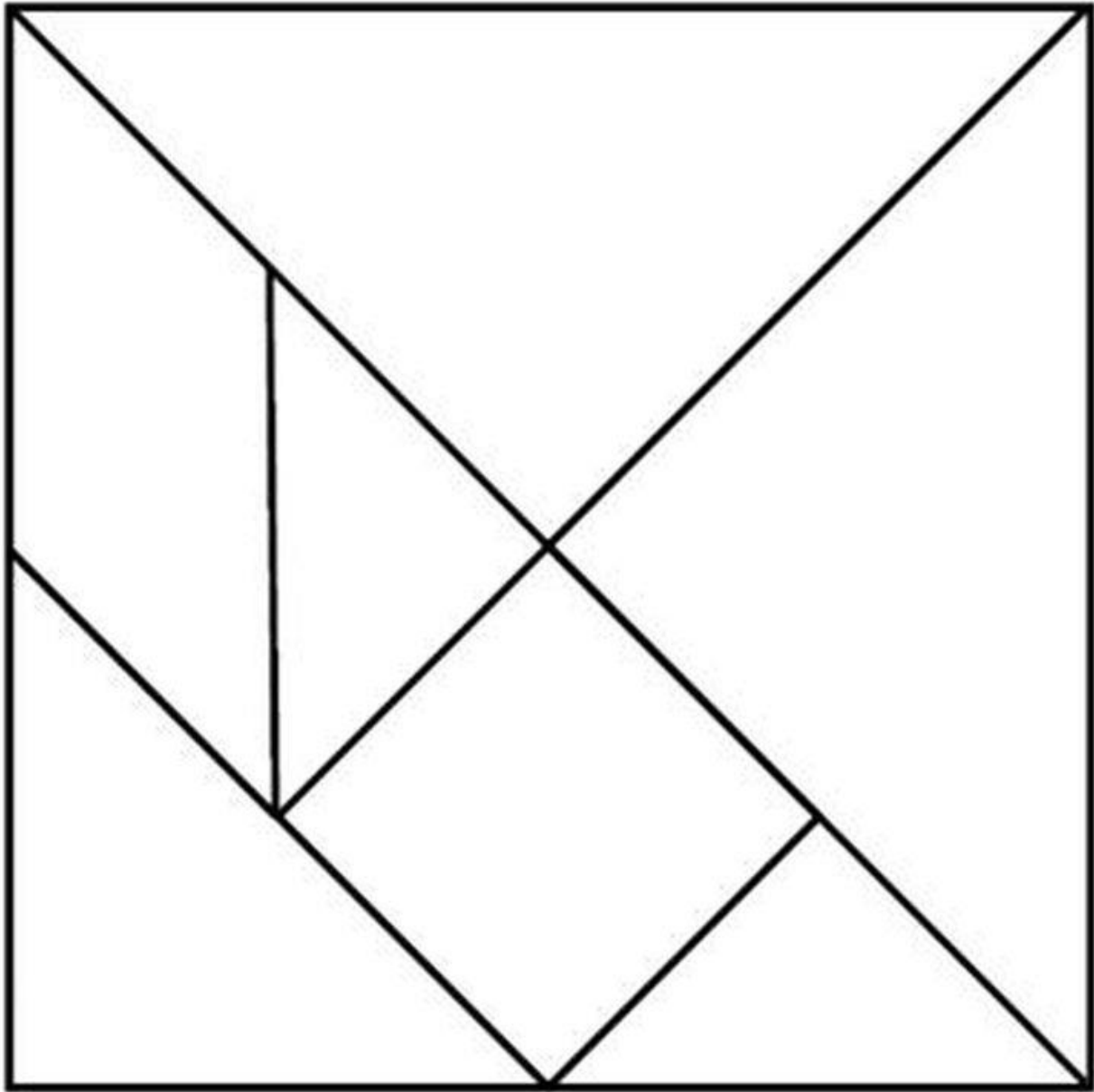
For step-by-step instructions, watch the video at: [Tangrams STEM Activity](#)

This at-home educational activity is from the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's literacy-based Stories & STEM program. Stories & STEM is made possible with support from Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc., which receives significant funding from the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Having fun? Send pictures or video links of you and your Stories & STEM projects to csharkey@literacyabc.org



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