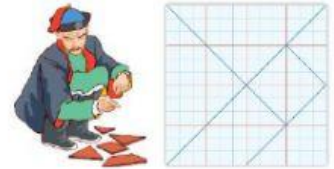


Puzzling Shapes



Read again. Match the headings to the paragraphs.

Tangram rules

How to make a dog

How to make the tan pieces

How tangrams were invented

A tangram is a puzzle made of seven different shapes. No one is certain who first invented tangrams, but there is a legend that says it was a man named Tan who lived a long time ago in China. Tan was poor, but he owned a beautiful ceramic tile. One day, Tan dropped his tile. It fell and broke into seven pieces: two large triangles, a medium size triangle, two small triangles, a square, and a rhombus. (A rhombus is a parallelogram with equal sides.) Tan worked for the rest of his life trying to put his tile together again. He couldn't do it, but he did make lots of different shapes. Tan enjoyed creating the designs and so did all his friends. Tan's puzzles were passed on for hundreds of years from country to country.

Take a square piece of paper measuring 12 cm. \times 12 cm. Mark 3 cm. squares on the paper. Then draw the blue lines as shown opposite. Cut the paper carefully along the blue lines. This will produce the seven tan pieces: five triangles, one square, and one rhombus. Smooth the pieces. Keep them in an envelope so they don't get torn or wrinkled.



You can make thousands of puzzles from these seven pieces. Here is a picture of a dog.

The two large triangles are his body and one front leg. His head is the square and the two small triangles are his ears. The last triangle is his back leg. The parallelogram is his tail. Now that you know which pieces to use where, can you figure out how to put them together?

The rules of tangrams are very simple. You must use all seven pieces. Each piece must touch at least one other piece. No pieces may overlap. (The pieces cannot be on top of each other.)

Read again and complete the missing information using 1, 2, 3 or 4 words:

- 1) Nobody can assure who invented tangram, but a legend says that it _____ called Tan.
- 2) He unfortunately broke his tile and tried to put it together, but he couldn't. Meanwhile, he made a lot of _____.
He had fun creating them and his friends also enjoyed that new creative game.
- 3) Tan's puzzles passed from generation to generation and from _____ country.