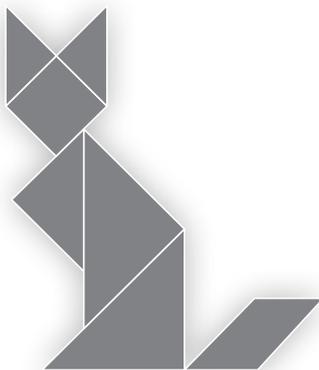
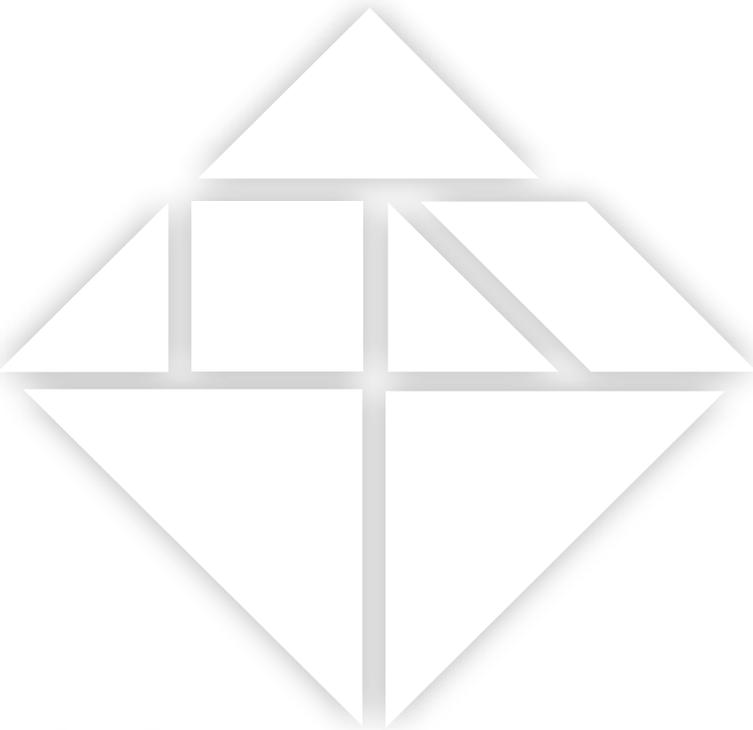


Tangrams

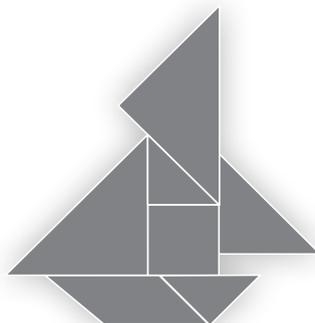
Tangrams are ancient Chinese puzzles which were brought to Europe and America during the 19th century by trading ships, and became extremely popular there.

A tangram consists of seven geometric shapes that originally make up a square – one square, one parallelogram and five triangles. These shapes can be moved around to make a wide variety of forms and figures, including people and animals. No pieces can overlap or be duplicated.

Hundreds of different shapes can be made — the challenge is to recreate that shape from just a silhouette.



Cat



Boat



Swan



Camel

The legend of the Tangram

Although the true origins of the tangram are unknown, the legend of the tangram tells of a sage (a wise old man) who had to take a precious sheet of glass to a king, to make a window in his palace.

The square piece of glass was carefully wrapped in silk, leather and canvas, and the sage set off with it on his back. He walked for many days, and finally had to climb a rocky mountain. From the peak he saw the palace, but then stumbled and fell down the mountain, breaking the glass.

Expecting it to have shattered into tiny pieces, he opened the package, but found the glass had broken into seven geometric shapes.

The sage tried to fit the pieces back together into the original square, but kept ending up with something else — a rectangle, a parallelogram and other shapes. He realised that the shapes had become something much more interesting than just a sheet of glass, and took them to the king, where he told the story of his journey using the images he could make from the pieces, including a camel, a boat and the mountain range.

The king was amazed, and had the shapes copied in wood, and the first tangram puzzle was made.

Visit <http://www.tangram-channel.com/> for lots more tangram puzzles

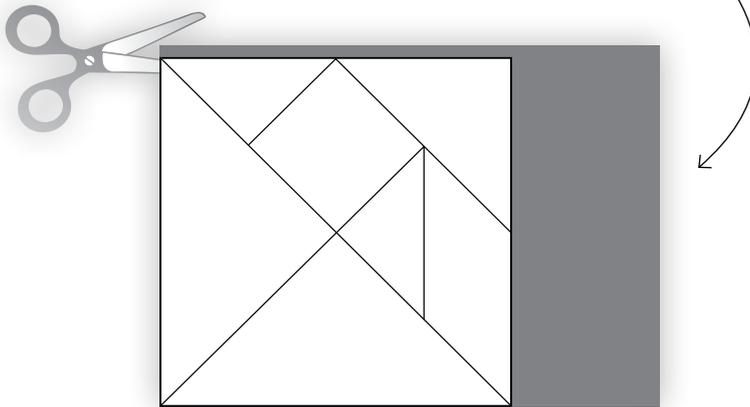
Make a tangram horse

You will need:

- A4 sheet of coloured card
- Scissors
- Glue stick

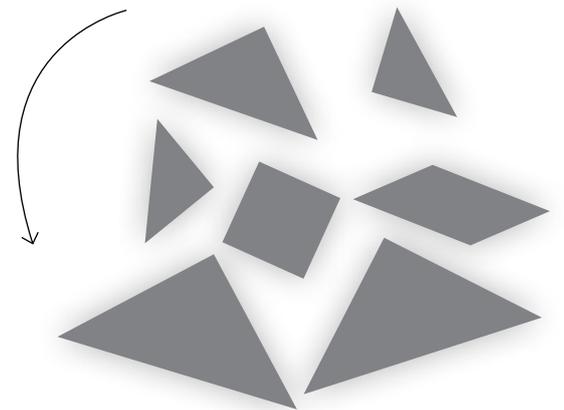
1

Place the template provided in one corner of the card, so that two of the sides of the square do not need to be cut, and lightly glue it down with a few dabs of the glue stick. First cut out the square outline along the thicker lines. Discard the rest of the card.



2

Then carefully cut along the thinner lines, making sure to cut as straight as possible. You should now have seven pieces of card. You can remove the template from the pieces of card.



3

Once you have cut out your tangram, see how many different shapes you can make from it. Remember that the pieces must not overlap. Try to copy the swan, the camel, the cat and the boat.

4

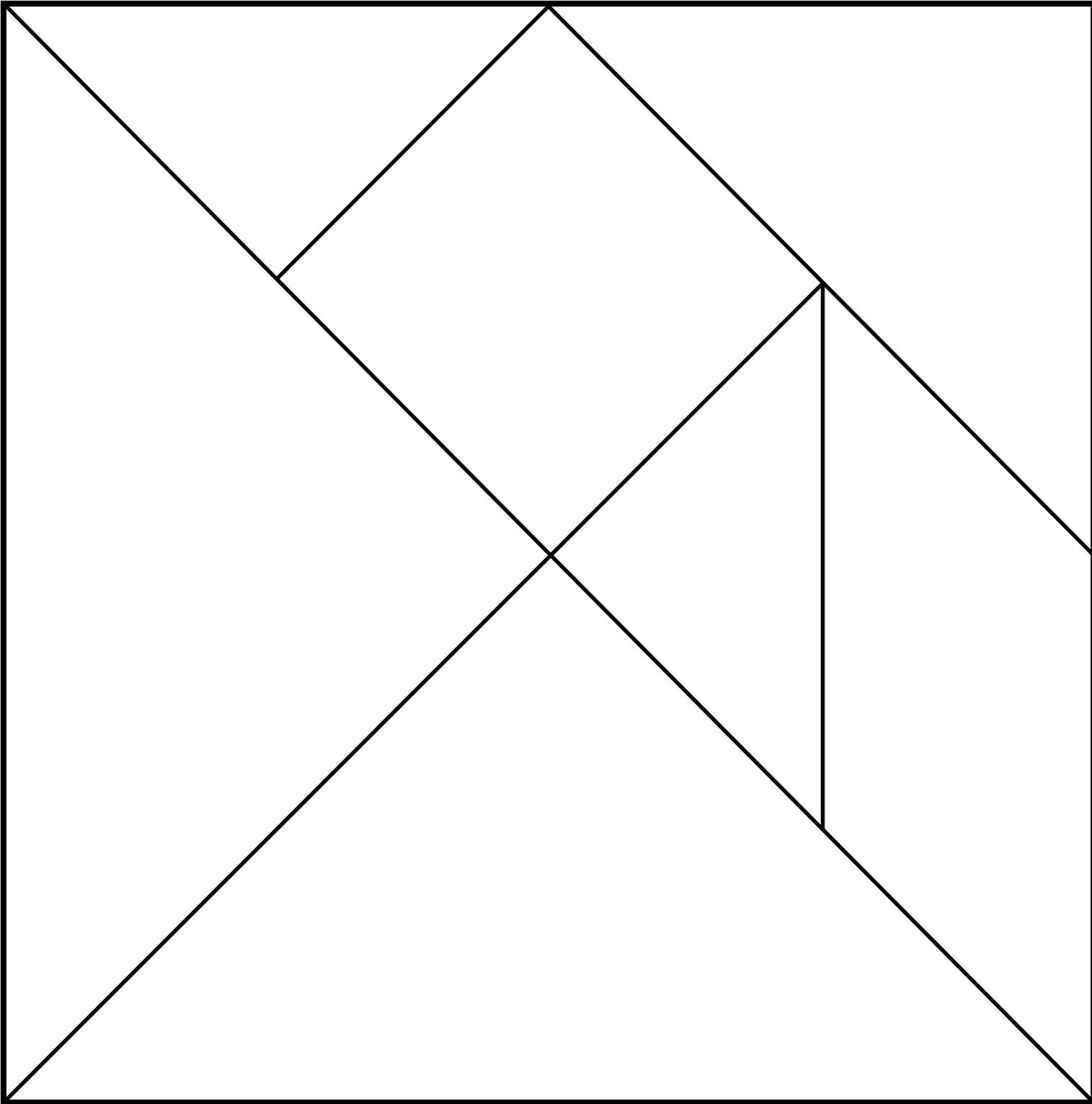
Now make the tangram horse from the seven shapes.



5

Once you are happy with your tangram shape, you can glue it down onto another sheet of card to make a picture or New Year card.





Tangram template

Cut out from coloured card.

Remove the template after use, so that the shapes can be used either side up.