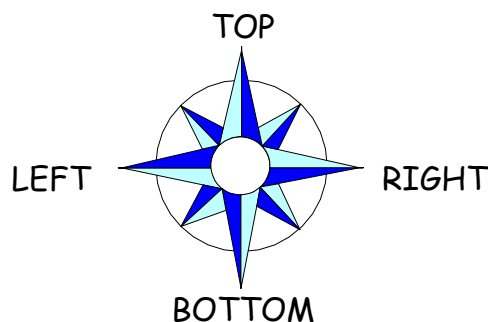


Directions for Cutting a Tangram

1. Use a 6 x 6 inch square of paper. Fold the square in half diagonally to make two triangles. Crease. Open the paper. Cut on the fold.
2. Use one of the triangles. Fold it in half to make two congruent triangles. Crease. Open the paper. Cut on the fold. Lay these two triangles down. You will not cut these again.
3. Use the big triangle. Make two folds. First fold it in half to make two congruent triangles. Crease. Open it up. Put the long side at the bottom. The point will be at the top. Fold the top tip down. Make it meet the bottom side of the triangle. It will also meet the vertical crease line. Make a horizontal crease. Open it up. Cut on the horizontal crease. Put the small triangle down.
4. The piece you have left is a trapezoid. Cut it on the vertical fold. Now you have two quadrilateral shapes that are congruent.
5. Set one of the shapes down.
6. Use the other quadrilateral shape to fold. Put the longest side at the bottom. Put the longest point to the left. Fold the longest point in. Make the point meet the opposite vertex. Crease. Open. Cut on the crease. You made a small triangle and a square. Put these down.
7. Use the last quadrilateral shape. Put the longest side at the bottom. Put the longest point to the right. Fold the vertex of the bottom left angle up to meet the diagonal vertex. Crease. Open. Cut on the crease line. You made a small triangle and a parallelogram.

You have seven pieces cut from one square. This is a Chinese puzzle. It is called a Tangram. There are many shape games you can play with tangrams.

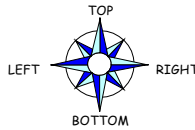


Literacy Link

Dear Parents, Today your child was challenged to cut a Chinese tangram puzzle. Learning to read informational text and comprehension of specific mathematical language is necessary in order to successfully complete the task. Reading the directions was their guided reading lesson for the day. Allow them to read the directions and demonstrate their understanding of the language for you. Then, you accept a challenge from them to do the same. Good luck!

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