



Geometrical shapes

BOX NOTICE

Name of the activity	Tangram
Activity duration	1h
Material needed	Geometrical figures box, scissors
Number of pupils involved (per box)	One pupil per box

Step 1: Preparation

First, you can show the Tangram to the pupils and ask them what it can be used for if they recognise any geometric shapes.

Step 2: Storytelling

You can continue by telling the legend of how the Tangram was created.

"The Tangram was born probably in ancient China...

The story of Tangram tells that a monk gave one of his disciples a porcelain square and a paintbrush, telling him to travel and paint on the porcelain the beauties he would encounter on his way. The disciple was so excited that dropped the square, which broke into seven pieces. In trying to reassemble the square, he formed interesting figures. He realised, from this, that he no longer needed to travel because he could represent the beauties of the world..."

Or you can read and tell the story about Tangram's "Geometric happiness".



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MATHEMATICS

Step 3: Preparation

Distribute the materials to the pupils and cut out the shapes along the lines to link with the story, explaining that the different cut-out pieces are like broken porcelain pieces.

Step 4: Construction of the shapes according to the models

To continue the activity and integrate the storytelling elements, you can explain to the students that, as the monk, they will try to reconstruct what they see with the different pieces.

Step 5: Creation of more figures

Ask the students to walk around the classroom (or the school) to find shapes that inspire them and recreate them using the Tangram pieces.

You can then ask them to describe their figures by discussing the pieces they used to create them. Sometimes, they will not know the "name" of the piece it is a good time to introduce the proper name of all the pieces in the Tangram.

If you are working on the first sequence of the box, you will continue discovering the different categories of polygons. If you are working on the second sequence, the box was used as a reminder of the polygons' names; you may now introduce the geoplan to your pupils to discover the perimeter.



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