Activity: Tangrams

Tangrams are a great puzzle that work for both beginner and advanced puzzlers.

- Tangrams were thought to have originated in China around 1,000 years ago and were introduced to Europe and America in the 1800s. Puzzle pieces are created by cutting up pieces of a square. They’ve been made of a variety of materials throughout history. These pieces can then be rearranged to create shapes and pictures.

- Geometric puzzles like this help to develop spatial skills, as well as understanding of geometric terms. And most importantly, they make you a better problem solver!

- Of all the shapes in a tangram, the parallelogram is the most interesting. When you flip any of the other pieces over, they fill the same space. However, when you flip over the parallelogram, it doesn’t fill the space in the same way and points in the opposite direction because it isn’t a symmetrical shape. Sometimes you need to flip this shape to make it fit.

- Choose your difficulty level. Print your puzzle on colorful heavy weight paper or craft foam. Then begin working on some tangrams!
Tangram piece template and puzzle.
More puzzles!