What You Need

• scissors
• this activity sheet

1 Cut out the seven shapes outlined on this sheet.

2 Using all of the shapes, make a square.

A tangram is a Chinese puzzle that’s made of seven shapes. You can arrange the shapes to make different patterns and pictures.

Try It Out!

How can you arrange these pieces to make a square?

Sent in by Sarah H. of Smithfield, IL

Now it’s time for you to experiment. Try using the shapes to make the fox or the running boy shown below. You can have a race with your friends to see who can make the pictures first. Or, invent your own picture, trace the outside, and challenge your friends to arrange the shapes to make it. Then send your favorite pictures and solutions to ZOOM.

Use the two large triangles to make one big triangle. Then use the rest of the shapes to make a second triangle. Put them together and you’ve got a square!

Science Scoop

Look around you—shapes are everywhere! You can find shapes in the clouds above you, on the bottom of your sneakers, and in a zebra’s stripes. By putting different shapes together or by taking them apart, you can make patterns. Scientists and mathematicians study shapes and patterns to explain how the world works or to solve problems. When you arranged the shapes to make a square, you used patterns to help solve a problem.