

Geo Art Gallery



Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Several sets of Tangrams (ideally one set for each student).

Objective: Students will use basic geometric shapes to create a work of art.

- Procedures:**
1. Divide the class into six groups.
 2. Show the class the tangram pieces and explain that they will be using these colored geometric shapes to create a work of art.
 3. Stress that any student who behaves inappropriately (e.g., throwing the tangram pieces) will be removed from his/her group and not be allowed to participate in the activity.
 4. Allow students to decide if their group wants to work together and use all of the pieces in one big design, or divide the pieces up and make individual designs.
 5. Tell the students how much time they will have to create their masterpiece. This will vary depending on the situation, but try to allow at least 10 minutes.
 6. Distribute tangram sets to each group. Try not to give any group two sets of the same color.
 7. Have students begin working. Provide updates on how much time is left.
 8. When the allotted time is up explain that they will spend the last five minutes of the lesson touring the "classroom gallery" and viewing the work of other artists.
 9. When touring time is finished, have students separate the pieces back into the original tangram sets. (If each set is a different color, this process is a lot easier!) Ask one student from each group to collect the tangrams and return them to the teacher.

Extension:

Have the students make an artist information card to be displayed next to their work. Things to put on the card may include the names of the artists, the number of each color used, the number of each shape used, the total number of pieces used, and a name for the work of art.


**TIPS FOR
Success:**

Classroom management may get a little hectic during the “touring” portion of the lesson. Here are some suggestions of things to do before the tour begins to help keep things under control:

- 1. Review classroom rules.*
- 2. State the expected student behavior (walking, whispering, look but don't touch, etc.).*
- 3. Ask if anyone in the class has ever been to an art gallery or museum. Discuss the atmosphere and behavior that they observed there.*
- 4. Compare the touring time to a trip to the library or school media center.*

Tangram Puzzles



Time:	15–30 minutes
Materials Needed:	Tangram sets—one for each student or pair of students (see Notes About Tangrams) Tangram Puzzle worksheets—one for each student or pair of students
Advance Preparation:	Photocopy puzzle worksheets
Objective:	Students will practice their spatial thinking skills.
Procedures:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Distribute to each student or pair of students a set of tangram pieces and copy of a tangram puzzle such as those found on following these pages.2. Encourage students as they rearrange the tangram pieces to construct the puzzle.3. Students who finish early can make their own puzzles by arranging the tangram pieces on plain paper then tracing around the outside of the design. These student puzzles can be exchanged among class members.
 TIPS FOR Success:	<i>There are many books and educational activity sets with lessons similar to Tangram Puzzles that can be purchased through educational supply companies.</i>
Adapting for	Have students work with a partner. Allow students to match the tangram design using the answer key.
Special Needs:	Match the tangram design using the answer key.

**Adapting for
Students
Accelerated**

Have students create and draw a new tangram design and have a partner try to make it. Instruct students to construct familiar shapes (animals, plants, buildings, etc.) using the tangram puzzle pieces.

If you choose to make your own tangrams here are a few suggestions:

1. Copy tangrams onto DIFFERENT COLORS of HEAVY card stock.
2. Be sure the template sheet (page #) is flat against the copier, otherwise the shapes will be distorted and not fit together properly.
3. Laminate the sheets of printed card before cutting the shapes apart.
4. Take the copied, laminated sheets, along with a few extra pair of scissors to school with you and let students, who finish early, cut them apart. Another option is to turn it into a class project. Have students cut them apart and then experiment making shapes while you read aloud from a good book.
5. Keep sets in sturdy Ziploc bags for storage and distribution purposes.

Purchasing or making tangrams may seem like a lot of work, but they are a versatile tool that can be used for many activities at any grade level and are well worth the effort.

Answers to puzzles

