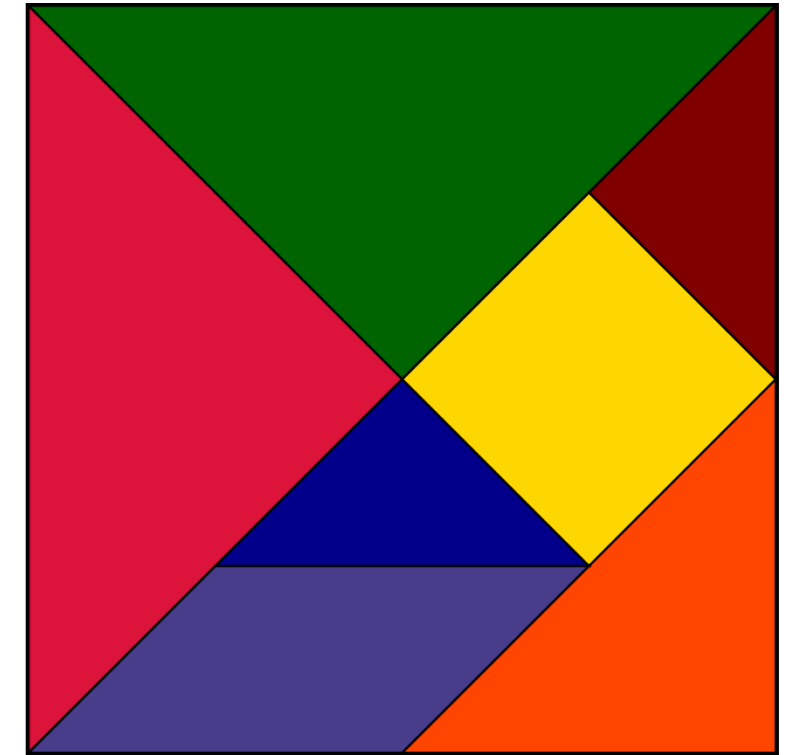


Bringing the Museum Home: Terrific Tangrams

Tangrams are a type of Chinese puzzle. The word tangram comes from the Chinese phrase 'seven boards of skill' because the puzzles have 7 pieces called tans. The aim of the puzzle is to arrange all 7 tans to make different shapes. The pieces cannot overlap.

Tangrams were invented in China in the Song Dynasty, nearly 1000 years ago and later carried over to Europe by trading ships in the early 1800s. The puzzles became very popular in Europe.



You can make your own tangram puzzle to play at home. Here's how:

1. Print the tangram template, or draw your own. Cut out the pieces.
2. Colour in each piece a different colour. You could give each one a pattern too, like zigzags or stars.
3. Then try arranging the 7 pieces into different shapes. Here are two examples of a cat and a fish. See how many different shapes you can make with your family.

