

INTERNATIONAL CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION DAY: **Tangram**

Background:

International Creativity and Innovation Day is held on April 21st and is the culmination of World Creativity and Innovation Week, which begins on April 15th. It has been celebrated since 2001. It celebrates the fact that people have the imagination and ideas to make the world a better place and encourages them to do so.

In May 2001, at a creativity conference in Ottawa, Canada, people were debating whether scientists or artists were more creative. A creativity specialist called Marci Segal decided that people are more creative than they realise. She contacted three more specialists, John Sedgwick, Paul Rousseau and Jacynthe Bedard, and they decided to create International Creativity and Innovation Day. The first celebrations took place in April 2002 in the Netherlands, Thailand, Brazil, the United States and Canada and now they are held in 46 countries. International Creativity and Innovation Day became International Creativity and Innovation Week in 2005 to give people more time to develop and implement their ideas.

The way people celebrate the Day/Week is very varied. In some places, there are conferences or workshops, but individuals also have ideas. One man in Toronto, Canada, wore one blue sock and one brown sock and he told his children to brush their teeth with the other hand. At one school, they wrote and produced a musical. What is your new idea? Remember that the Day has only one rule: **"do no harm"**.



Creativity & Innovation Week

A Tangram is a popular Chinese puzzle that consists of 7 shapes. When put together, they form a square, but the idea is to use the seven pieces to make different shapes. Why not be creative and see how many different shapes you can make?

You will need:

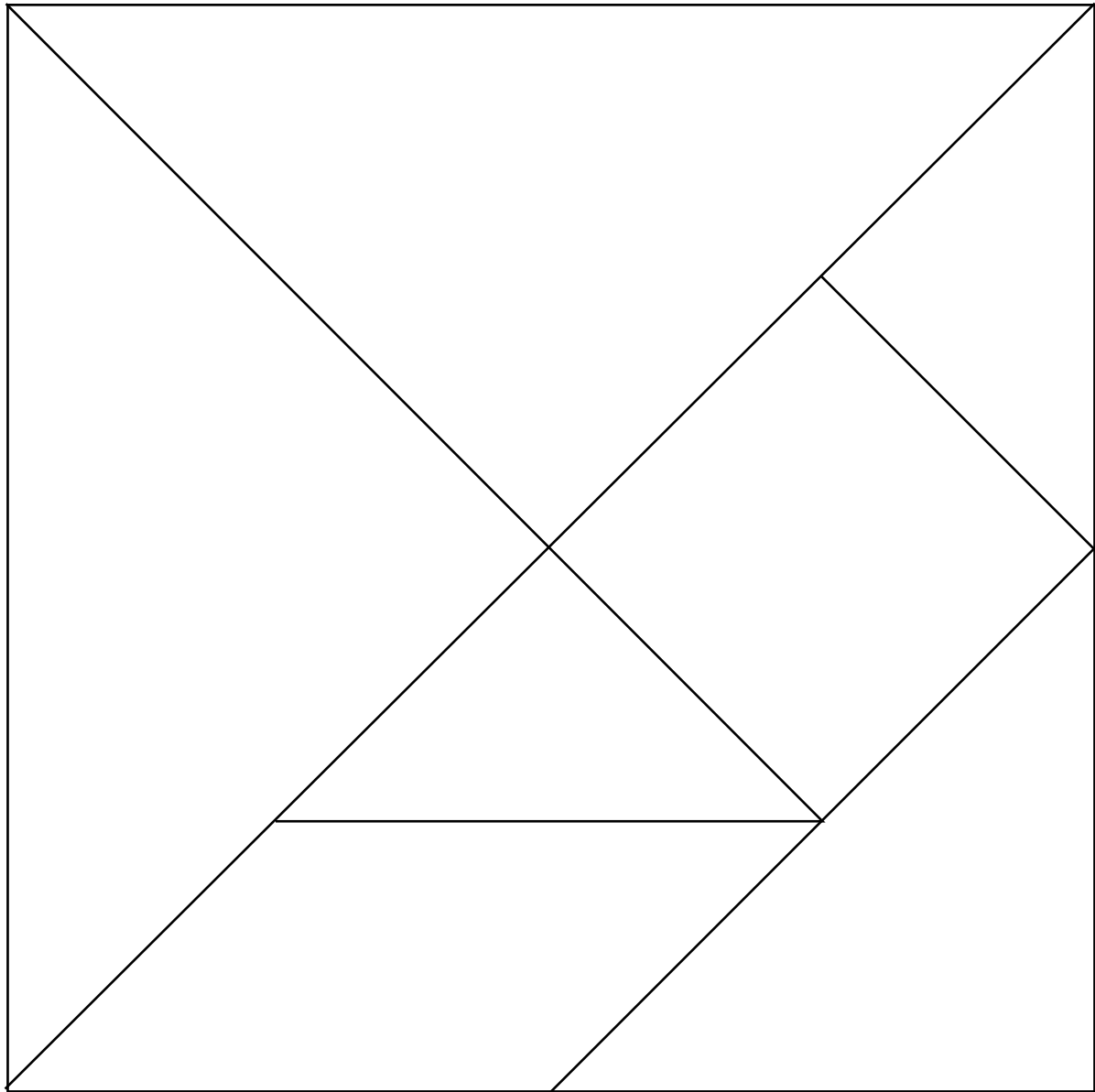
- scissors
- coloured crayons, pencils or markers
- one copy of Worksheet 1 for each child, preferably on card
- one copy of Worksheet 2 for each child
- envelopes or paper clips
- one copy of Worksheet 3 for each child (for optional extension activity)

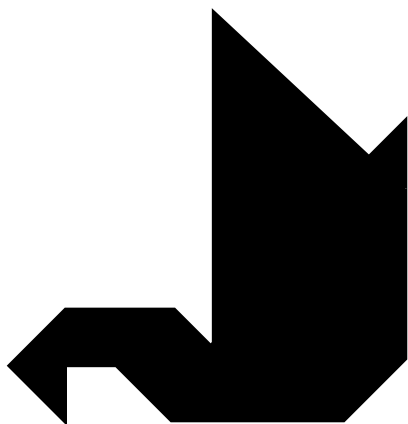
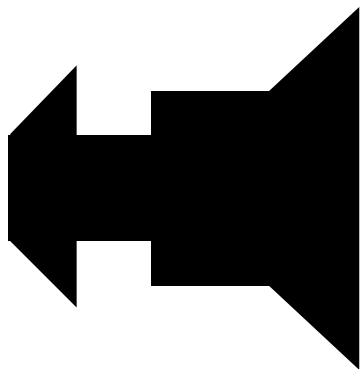
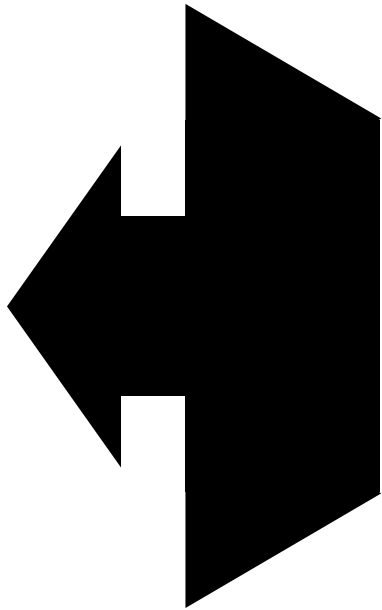
Instructions:

1. Distribute Worksheet 1 to your students.
2. Ask the children to colour each shape a different colour. As there are seven shapes, you could suggest they use the colours of the rainbow. Ask them to name the colours. Help them to say them in order and either allow each child to use the colours as they wish or decide, for example, to colour one big triangle red and the other orange, to colour the square yellow, the parallelogram green, etc.
3. Ask the children to cut along the lines to separate the seven shapes.
4. Distribute Worksheet 2 and ask the children to reproduce the images by laying the shapes in place.
5. Ask them to create three more shapes and to draw the outlines in the remaining three squares.
6. In groups, children take it in turns to describe their shape. The rest follow the instructions. Note that this activity is easier if all the children have coloured the shapes the same colour as they can say put the red triangle next to the blue triangle... Distribute the envelopes or paper clips so they can store the shapes.

Optional extension activity:

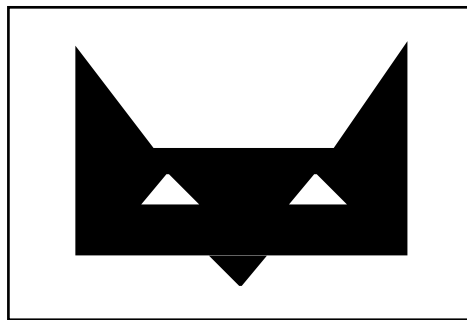
Distribute Worksheet 3 and read through the example. Ask the children to invent a fourth shape or to use one of the shapes they invented on Worksheet 2. The children stick the shapes onto the worksheet and then use their imagination to complete the text. In groups or as a class, you can decide on the most imaginative creation.





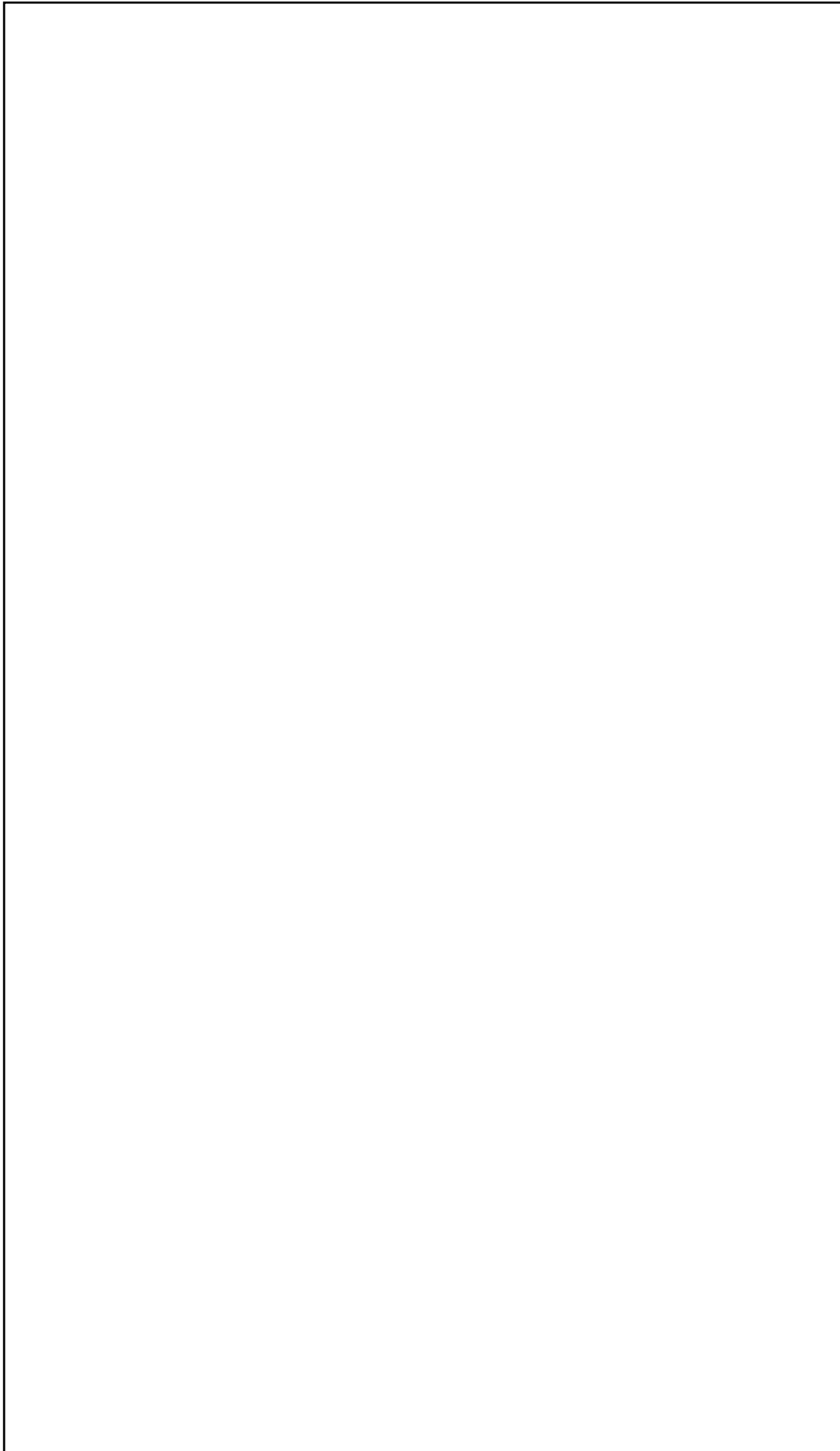
Example:

MY CREATION



My creation is a wolf mask. When you wear it, you can talk to animals and understand what they say. I think it is a good invention because I think animals are intelligent and they can tell us lots of things.

MY CREATION



My creation is _____

