

## **Tangrams**

### 七巧板

#### **Background:**

*Tangrams* are an ancient Chinese puzzle consisting of 7 tiles made using 3 basic geometric shapes. These shapes are two large, one medium and two small triangles, one square and one parallelogram. The objective of the puzzle is to form a specific shape (given only an outline or silhouette) using all seven pieces, which may not overlap. It is believed to have been invented in China during the Song Dynasty, and then carried over to Europe by trading ships in the early 19th century.

#### **Directions:**

- Pick a color template.
- Cut along the solid lines. You will now have seven pieces: 1 small square, 2 small triangles, 1 medium triangle, 1 large triangles and 1 parallelogram.
- You can arrange these seven pieces into a variety of shapes—including animals, people, and everyday objects, such as candles or spinning tops.
- Try creating your own, or use the templates for some pre-designed images.