FRACTIONS
WITH
TANGRAMS

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Didax
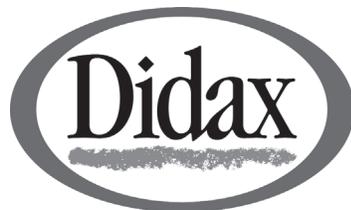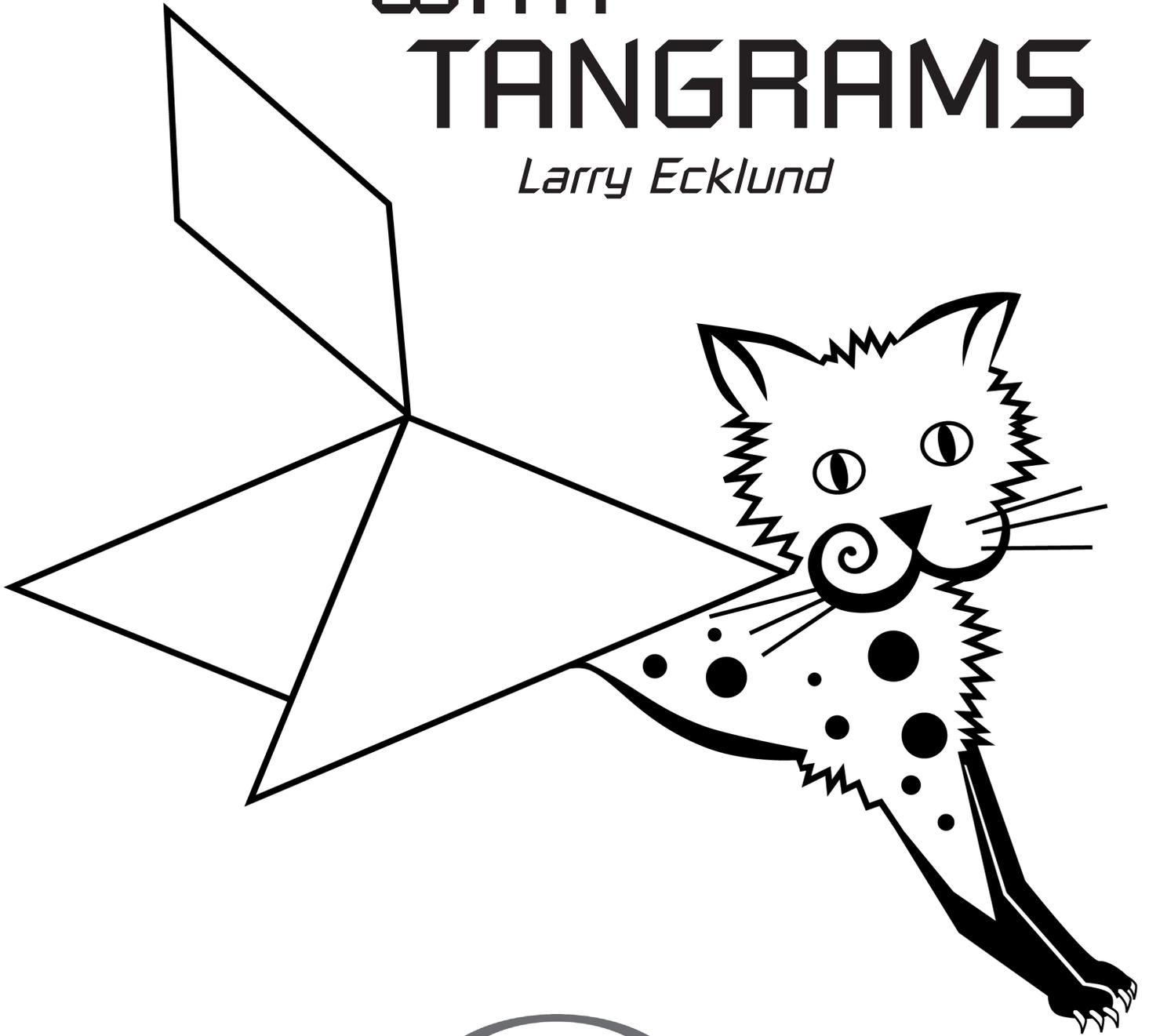
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Getting Started

Legend tells us that in ancient times a Chinese scholar possessed a very fine ceramic tile. One day, as he was taking it to show to the emperor, he slipped and dropped the tile, breaking it into seven pieces. He spent the rest of his life attempting to put it back together. This may be a well-designed story to excite the imagination, to cause speculation, or to search for further credibility.

The classic Tangram Puzzle (rebuilding the square tile) is one of the oldest and most enduring geometric puzzles. The square tile is made up of seven geometric shapes that are referred to as the seven tangram pieces:

> 2 large congruent triangles,
> 1 medium sized triangle,
> 2 small congruent triangles,
> 1 parallelogram and
> 1 square.

Tangrams have been a constant curiosity and challenge to students as they attempt to solve the classic seven-piece problem. We have included reproducible activities for you to use in the classroom with your students. Please encourage your students to "solve" the seven-piece tangram puzzles and make drawings of their solutions.
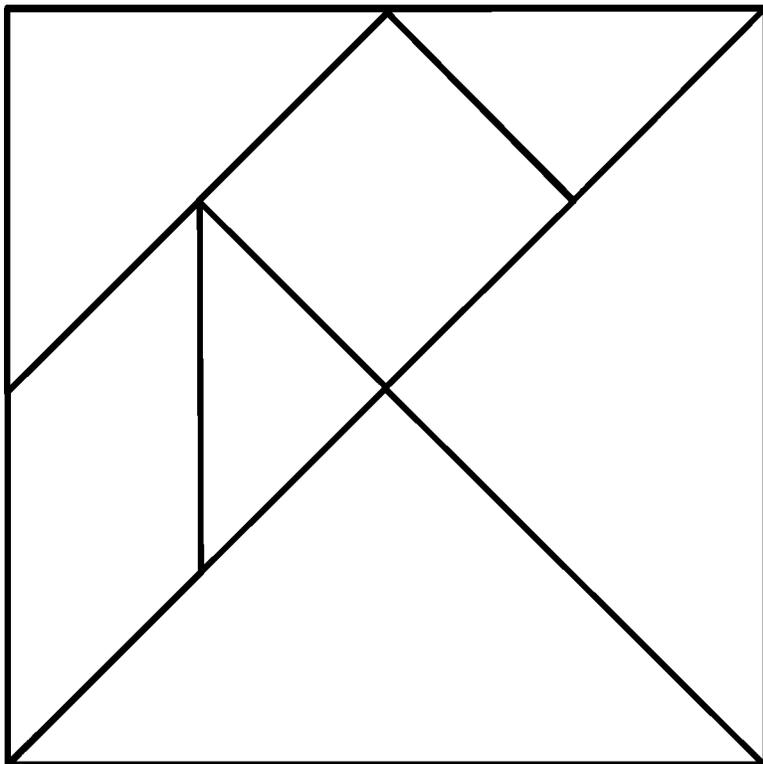
Tangram Shape Symbols:

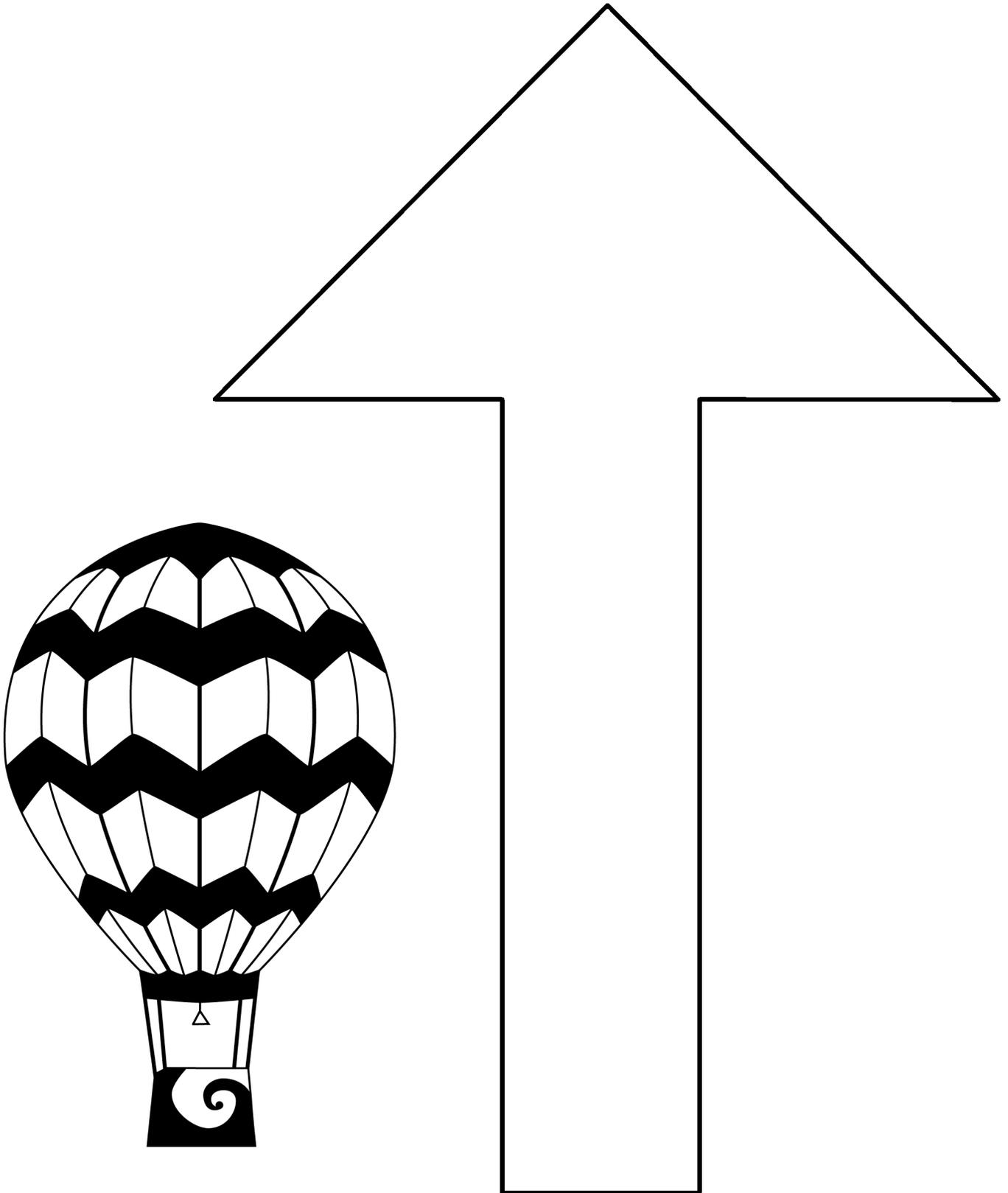L — Large triangle

M — Medium triangle

S — Small triangle

Square

Parallelogram

Cover with all 7 tangram pieces and draw in the lines.

Cover with all 7 tangram pieces and draw in the lines.