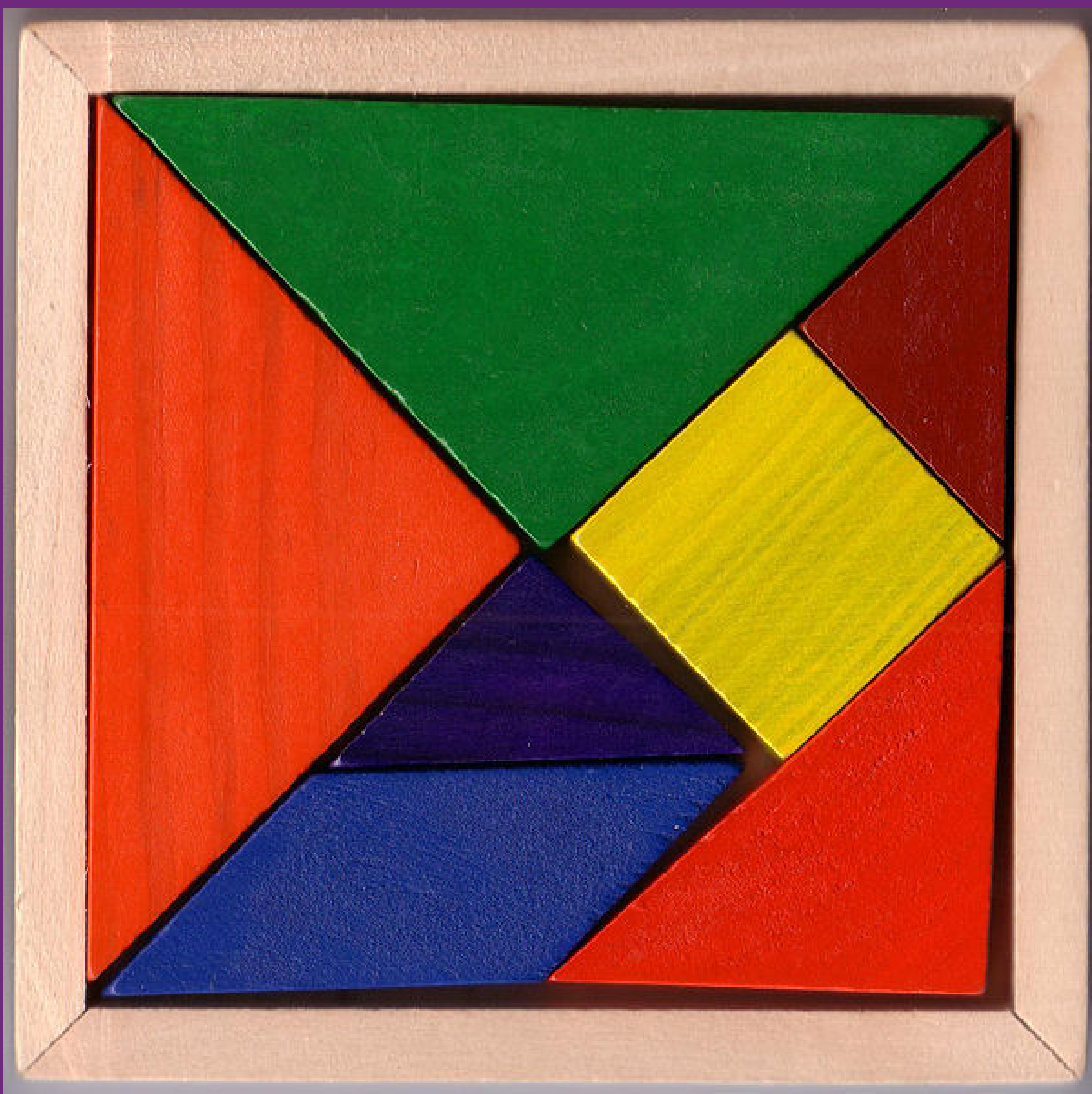


# Terrific Tangrams

**Tangrams are a type of Chinese puzzle, meaning 'seven boards of skill'.**

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 during the Song Dynasty, nearly 1000 years ago and later made their way to Europe on trading ships in the early 1800s.

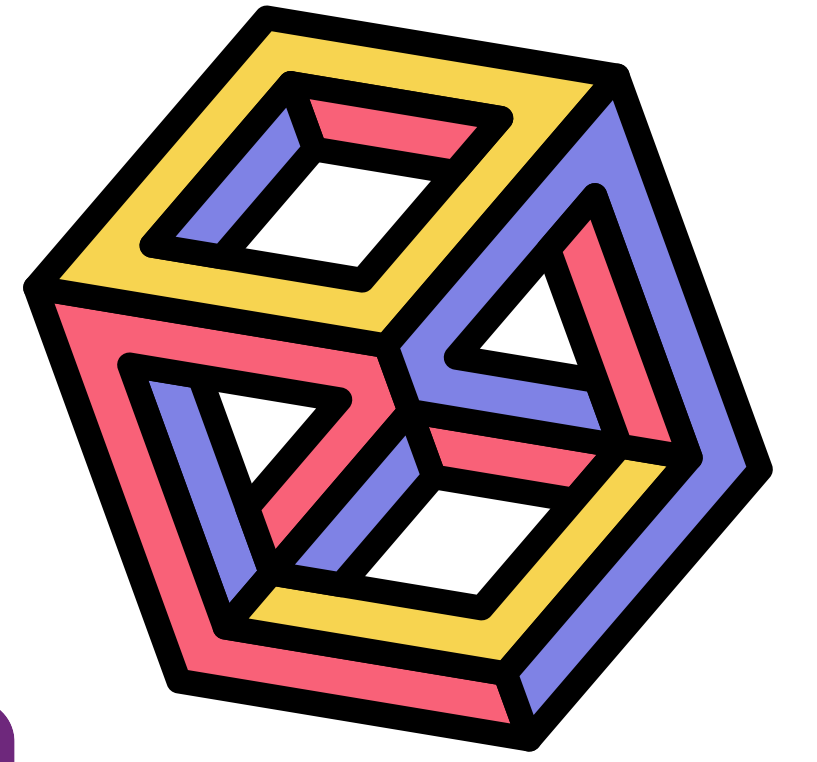
The puzzles became very popular in Europe.

**Try it yourself**

**Try making your own tangram puzzle with the shapes below.**



# Tangram Paradoxes



Tangram paradoxes are when similar tangram 'figures' can be created using the exact same set of 'tans', but they end up looking bigger or smaller than each other.

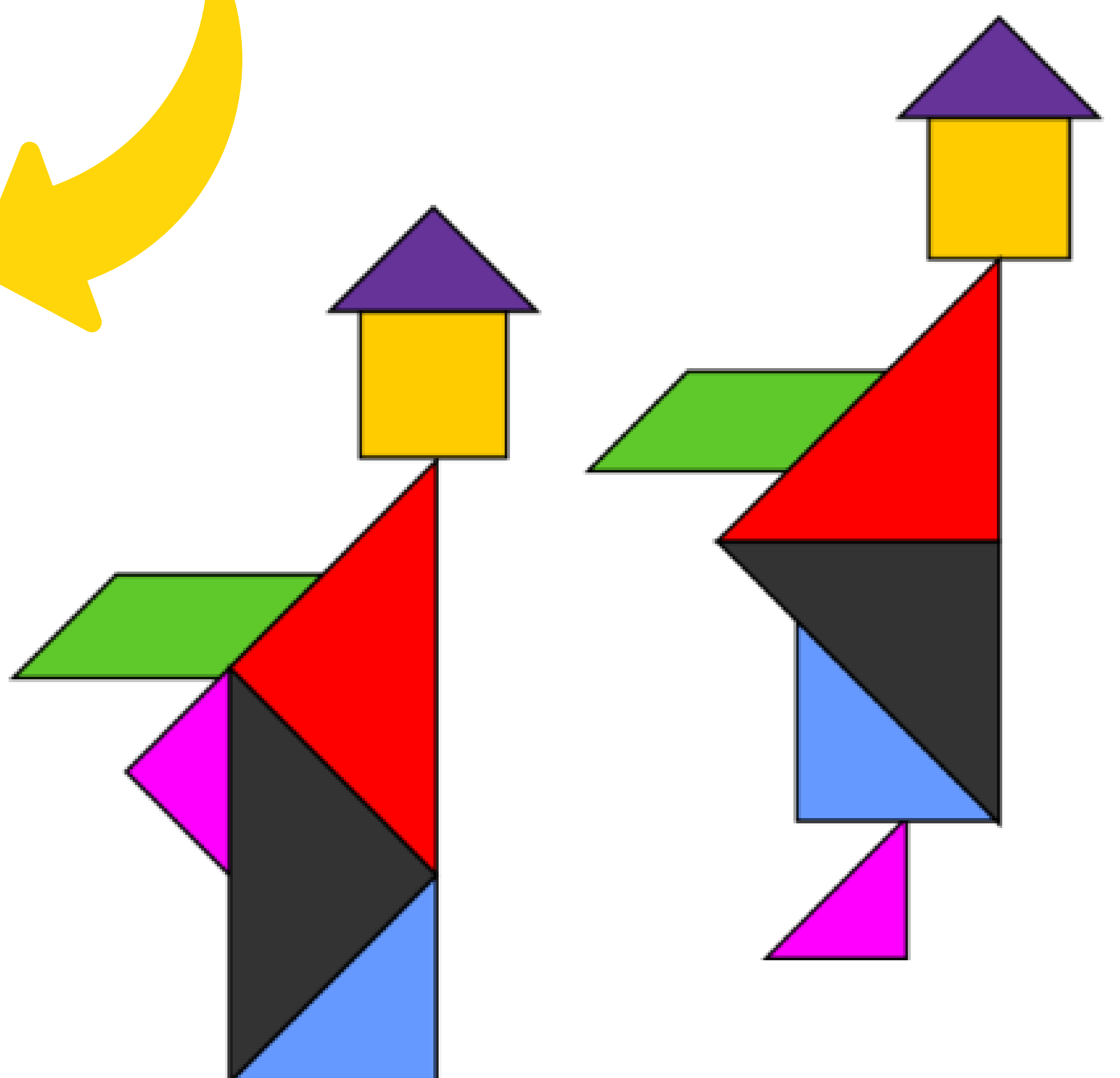
**This gives the illusion that one tangram could fit inside the footprint of another, even though in fact they are the exact same size.**

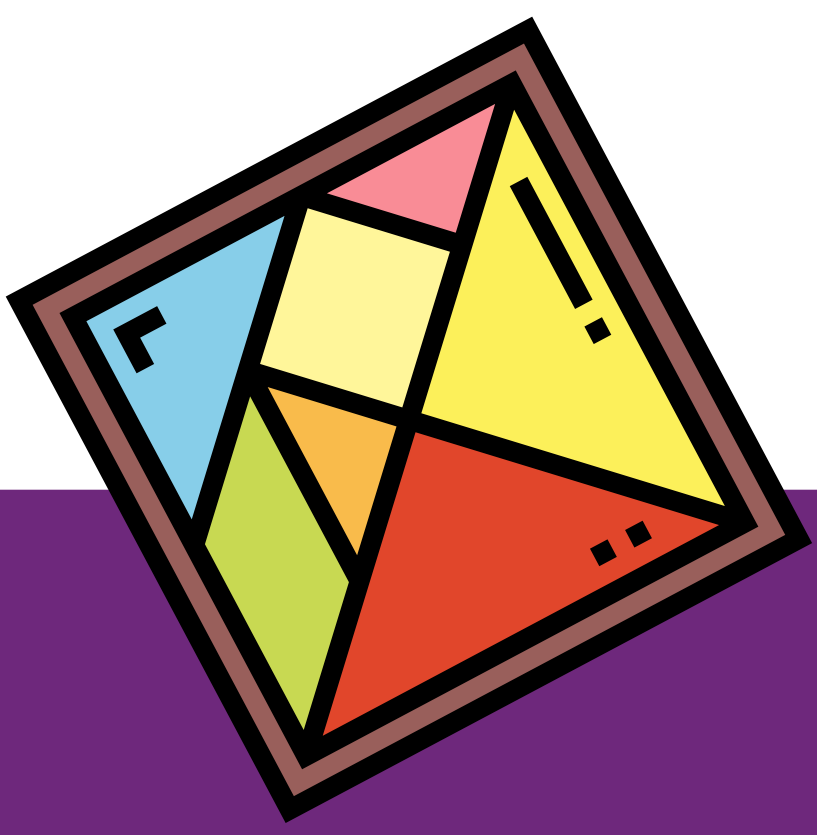
You can try to create some tangram paradoxes for yourself.

An easy one to start off with is called the 'two monks paradox'.

It features two figures, one with - and one without - a foot.

The monk with the foot seems bigger than his friend, but in fact they are the precisely the same.

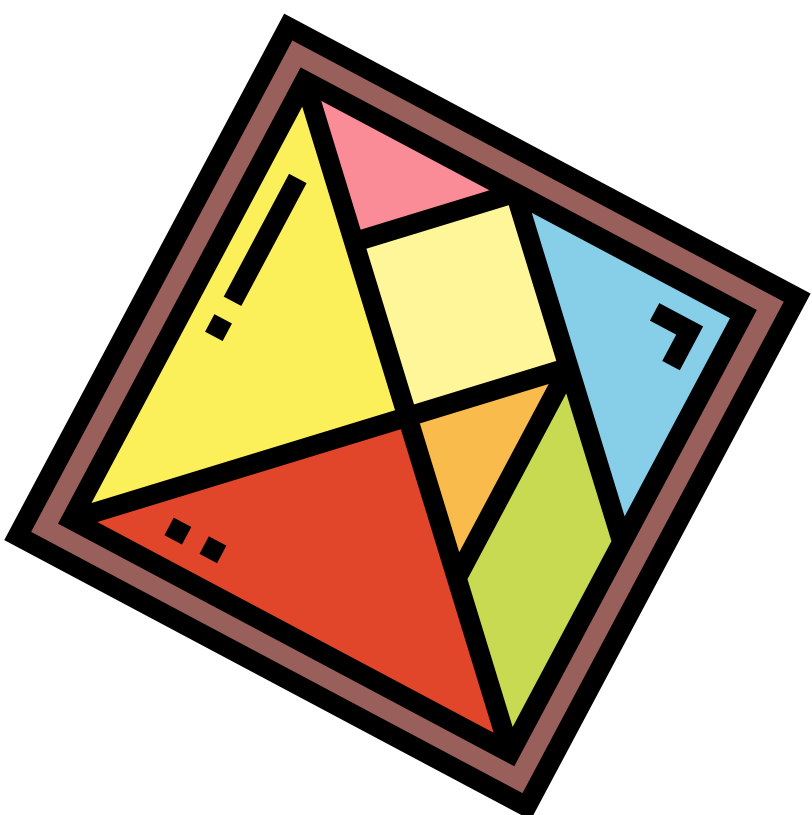
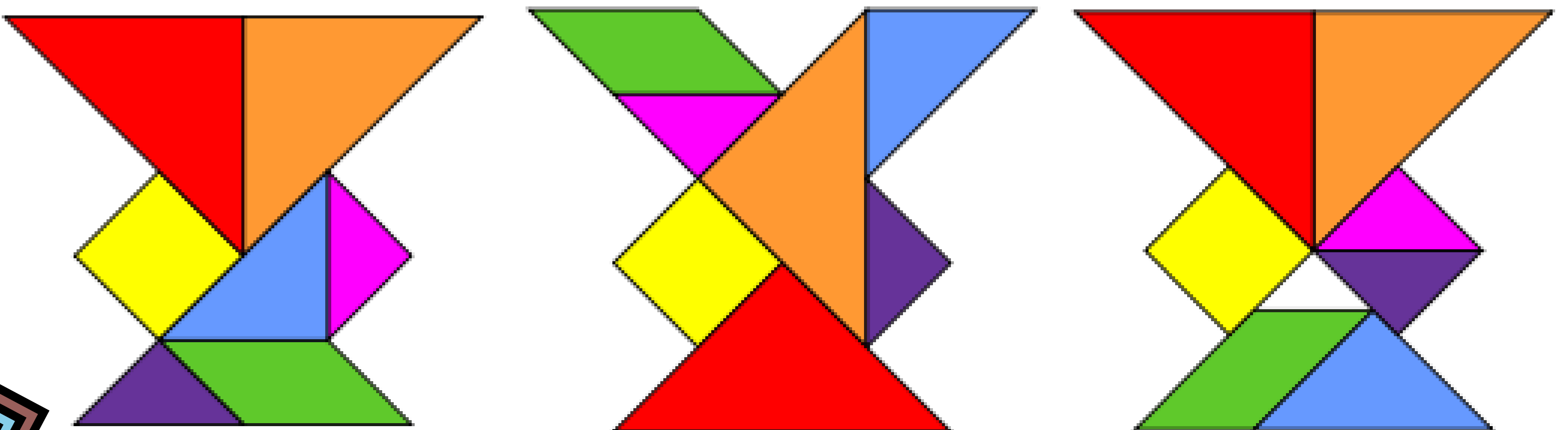


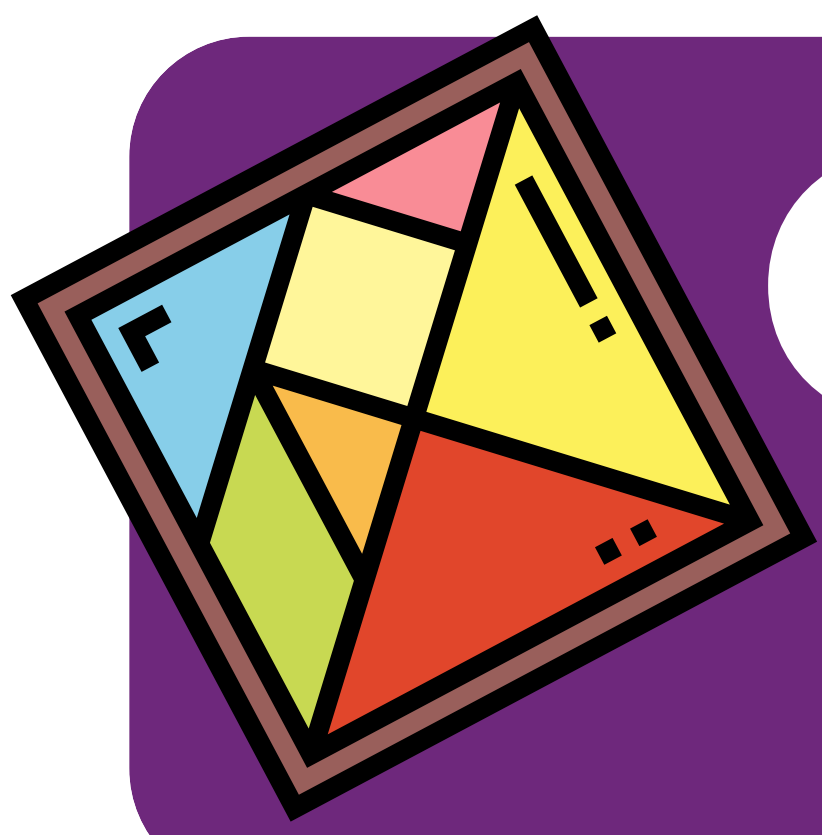


A more complicated paradox is called the 'magic dice cups paradox'.

This shows three cups that all made of the same pieces and so are all exactly the same size. But one cup is full while the other two have empty spaces inside them.

This gives the illusion that the full cup 'figure' contains more 'tans' than the others, but really they have the exact same amount!





# Create your own tangram

**Cut out and colour in this tangram puzzle.**



**Ask for an adult for help when using scissors.**

