

Activity 16.8 TANGRAM AREAS

Draw the outline of several shapes made with tangram pieces, as in Figure 16.6, and duplicate them and give them to groups of students. Ask groups to estimate which one they think has the largest (or smallest) area. Then let students use tangrams to decide which shapes are the same area, which are larger, and which are smaller. Let students explain how they came to their conclusions. Use the animal shapes from *Grandfather Tang's Story* (Tompert, 1997) for additional investigations. Are all the animals the same area?

Figure 16.5

Tangrams provide an opportunity to investigate area concepts (see Blackline Master 40).

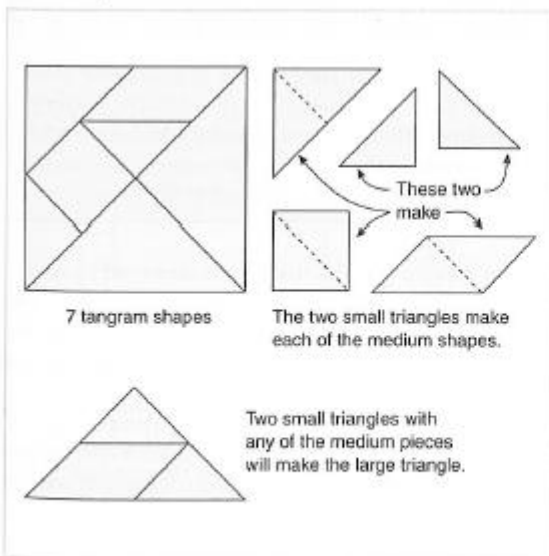
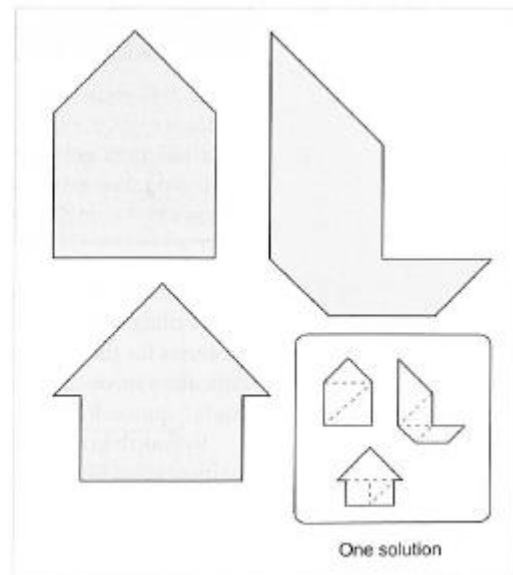


Figure 16.6

Compare the area of shapes made of tangram pieces.



From Van de Walle et. al. (2014). *Teaching Student-Centered Mathematics Grades: Developmentally Appropriate Instruction for Grades 3 – 5* (2nd Ed.). Toronto: Pearson Education, Inc. (p. 325).