Havethemtracearoundthefigures thencutthemoutandfoldtheshape tocheckitssymmetry. Kidscanmake othersymmetricalshapes, thenshare themwiththeirpeers.

Congruence

Introduction
The tangram is an ancient Chinese puzzle consisting of a square divided into these seven geometric shapes:

This set contains 4 tangrams in 6 different colors. The plastic pieces are easy for young children to manipulate, and can be used for classwork or creative play.

Sorting the Pieces
Start by familiarizing children with the seven pieces of the tangram. Sorting is one way to do this. Using one complete tangram, children can:

- sort by shape
- sort by number of sides
- sort by shapes with the same area

Making Geometric Shapes
Using some or all of the pieces, children can make larger forms of the tangram square, parallelogram, and triangle. They also can make other shapes such as rectangles, trapezoids, pentagons, and hexagons. Let children explore with the shapes. Then have them trace around the pieces to record their shapes. Here are some possibilities:

Tangram Puzzles
Use the tangram pieces to form the animals and objects as shown. Ask children to form these shapes at their desks.

Have them trace around the outside of the figures, and then decorate their shapes so they become recognizable figures. Encourage them to create their own figures.

Symmetry
Guide youngsters in discovering which tangram pieces are symmetrical. Using the tangrams at their desks, have them trace around each piece, cut it out, then fold it to see if the two parts match. You may want to tell children that the fold line is called a line of symmetry. Children can fold their cutout pieces to find the number of symmetry lines for each shape. A suggested way of recording their work is shown below:

Symmetrical Figures
Ask children to form symmetrical figures with their pieces: