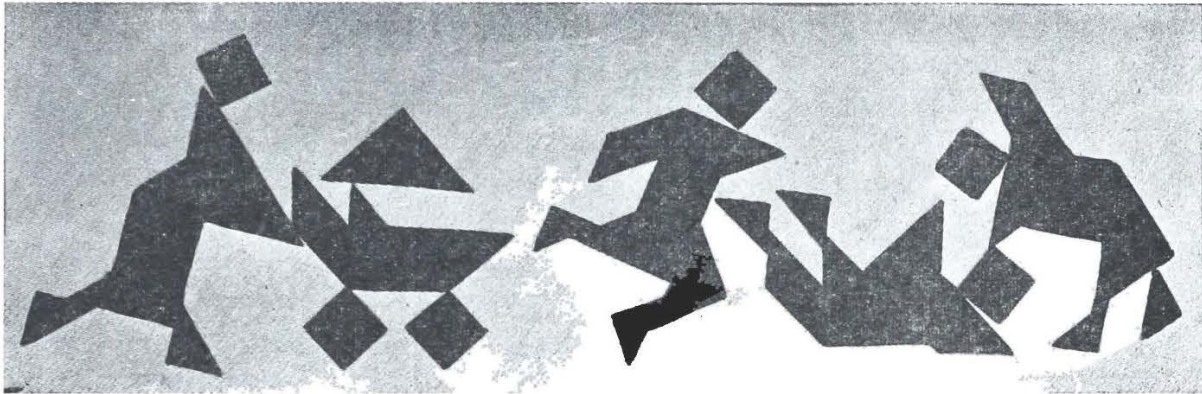


## WORK AND PLAY SECTION

### THE LITTLE BLACK TANGRAMS



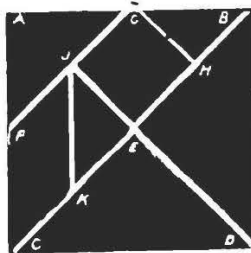
TANGRAMS are little black cards of various shapes that are supposed to have been first designed in China many centuries ago. Any boy or girl can make a set of tangrams by taking a square of black card and cutting it into seven pieces as shown in the picture on this page.

A boy or girl can make the necessary black cardboard by pasting over ordinary white card a piece of black paper. To cut the tangrams take a small piece of cardboard three inches square. Cut the card from one corner to the opposite corner, from C to B. (See the small illustration.) Then find the middle of C B which is E. Cut from E to D. The remaining pieces are easily cut to the right sizes, for the various points to and from which we cut are all the middle points of lines. Thus G is the middle point of A B. The point F is the middle of A C. The point J is the middle of F G. The point K is the middle of C E. The point H is the middle of E B.

Having cut the piece of square black card as shown in the small picture, you

have seven pieces of card of various sizes. They should all be black on both sides.

By putting these seven pieces of card together, you can make many things with the little black tangrams. It must be understood that in each picture every one of the seven pieces of card has to be used, and the whole of each piece of card must be completely seen—that is, you can not put one piece partly over another.



*How to cut them*

It is a fact that pictures of thousands of objects can be made with these little seven pieces of card. In the picture of children at play shown on this page each individual in the group is made up from one set of tangrams. Five sets of tangrams are required to make everything as shown in the picture.

We can make men, animals, birds, lanterns, faces, geometrical figures, and many other things from these tangrams. It is not always easy, even with a finished tangram picture before you, as a pattern to put the tangrams together properly to produce the picture. But practice will help you to make anything desired.