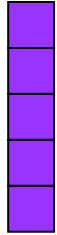


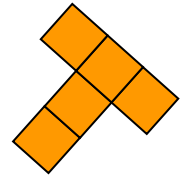
Pentominoes!

Pentominoes are a terrific way to develop spatial ability. Your school may very well have class sets of pentominoes. The standard size is one-inch squares, which will work for these activities. If you don't have any, you can use the templates in this packet. Just copy them onto heavy paper and cut out to use. The cutting out part would be a really good job for a parent helper if you teach younger children who cannot do the cutting themselves.



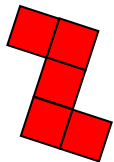
Suggestions for use:

You may want to start out by having students [generate pentominoes](#). I have a free lesson plan on how to do this posted [here](#).

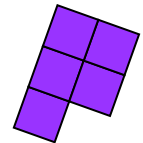


The first two pages are a good introduction. Even though I used some colors, the pages print out fine in grayscale.

Trying to make the shapes without an outline can be challenging. That is why the next four pages have the shapes in one-inch grids so that students can solve the puzzles right on the grids. This is especially good for younger students. You could laminate these pages and use them over and over, perhaps at a center. You could also have students show their solutions with erasable overhead pens.

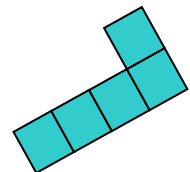
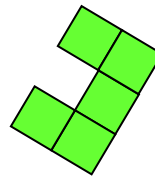
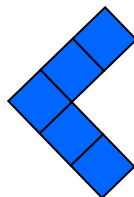
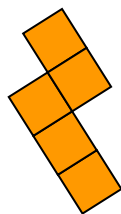
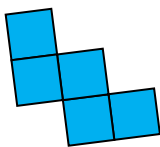


The final puzzle page has some really challenging puzzles – these will even challenge adults!



I did not include answer keys because most of these puzzles have many possible solutions. You can see all of them yourself as well as many other puzzles on this excellent [Pentomino Page](#) (click on the puzzles to see the solutions).

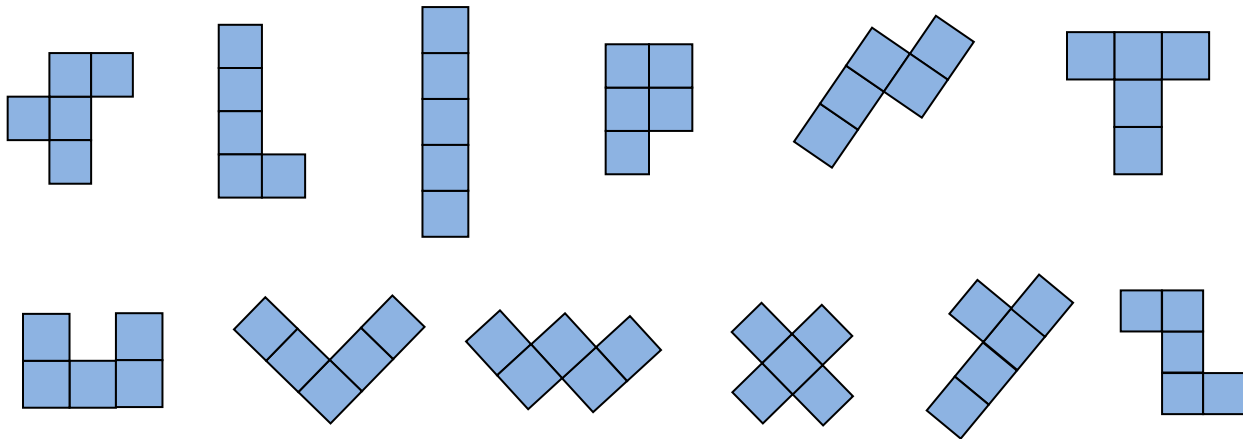
Happy Solving!



Pentominoes!

There are 12 unique pentominoes. Each one is named for a letter in the alphabet: **F, L, I, P, N, T, U, V, W, X, Y, and Z.**

Label each pentominoes with its letter name.



Here is a rectangle that uses 4 pentominoes. Use your pentomino shapes to make 2 more.

Record your answers below by outlining the squares to make the pentominoes you used.

There are actually 50 different ways to make this rectangle!

