Tangram Activity #1:

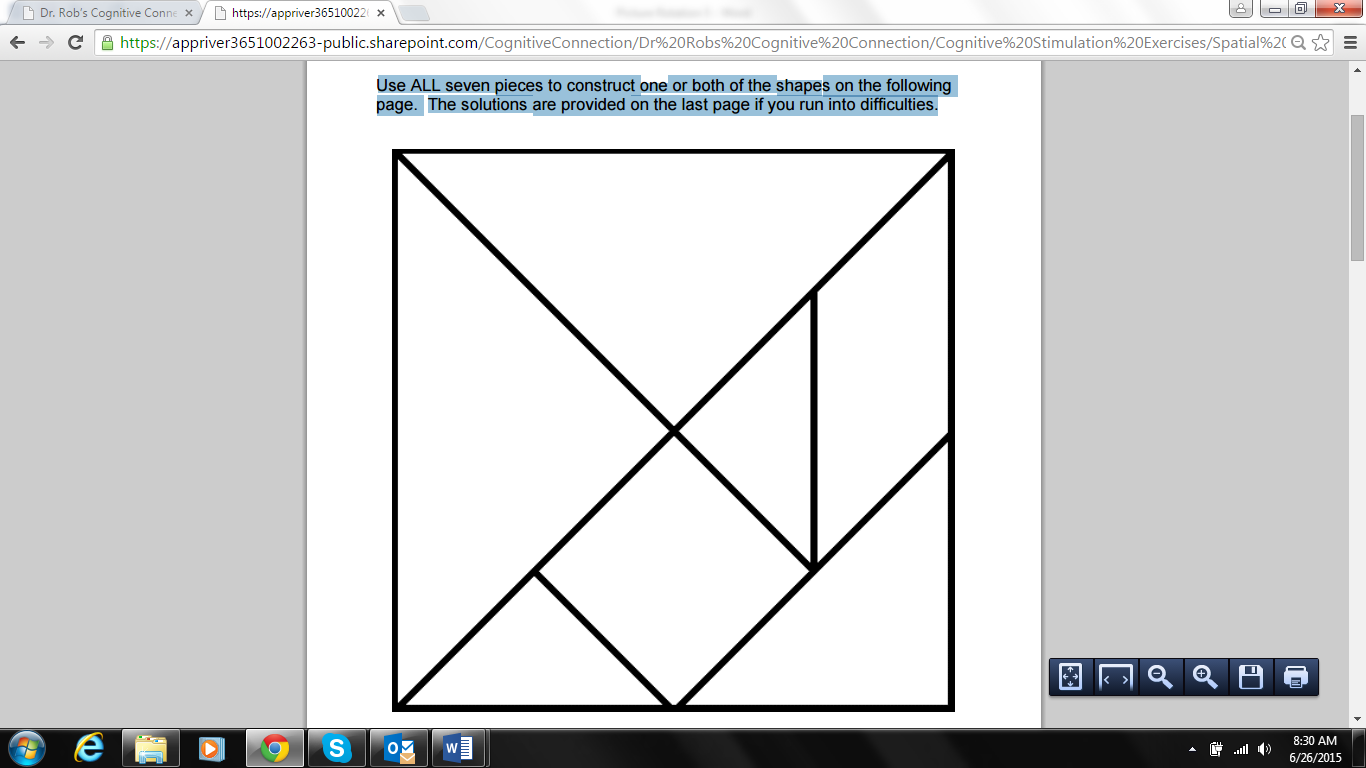
The invention of the tangram puzzle is unrecorded in history. The earliest known Chinese book is dated 1813 but the puzzle was very old by then. One reason for this could be that in China, its country of origin, at the time it was considered a game for women and children. This would have made it unworthy of "serious" study and unlikely to be written about. Different times, different ways of thinking. Glad that's changing. :-)

The roots of the word Tangram are also shrouded in time, with a number of possible explanations. The one I like best involves the Tanka people. These river people of China were great traders who were involved in the opium trade. The western sailors they traded opium with likely played with the puzzle when they visited their Tanka girlfriends. The story I believe is that it comes from the obsolete English word "tramgram" meaning puzzle or trinket. You can learn a bit more at the Online Etymology Dictionary A fun place, by the way, if you like words. (From the website: http://tangrams.ca/inner/tanhist.htm)

Tanagram Activity #1: PART 1

Cut the large square into pieces along the solid lines to make two large triangles, one medium triangle, two small triangles, one square, and one parallelogram (squashed rectangle).

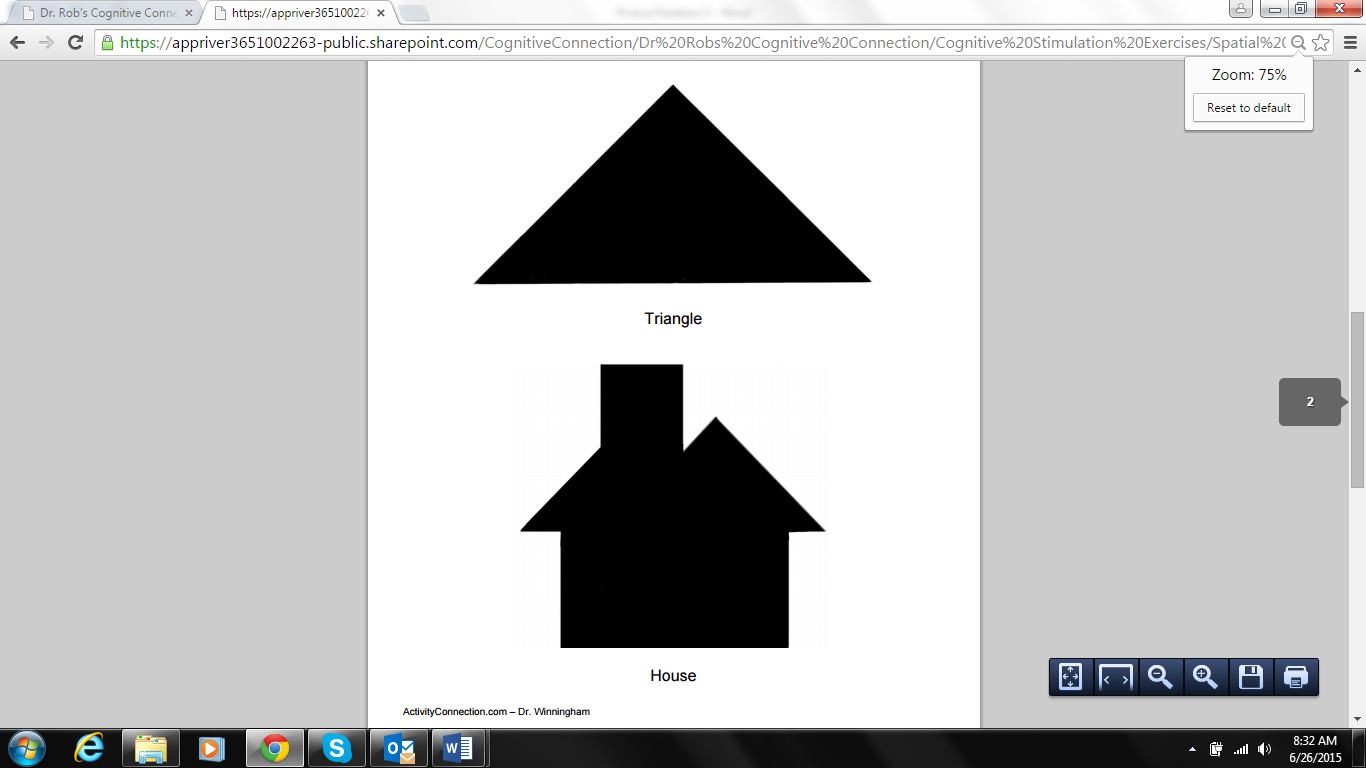
*(cont. next page)*



Tanagram Activity #1: PART 2

Use ALL seven pieces to construct one or both of the following shapes.

*The solutions are provided on the last page if you run into difficulties.*



Tanagram Activity #1: SOLUTIONS