

# Passport to Learning

## Morning

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## Time Plans



Travel  
UNIT

Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, map work, and art prints are printer ready. Links are provided for geography, art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

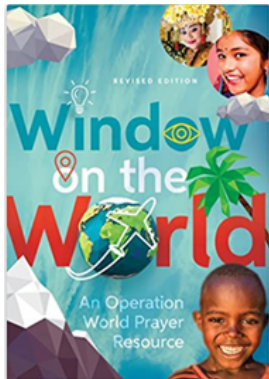
May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— Carrie —  
DE FRANCISCO



## Family Devotions

Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will be "traveling the world." As you "travel," spend each week praying for missionaries around the world. Pray for the people and cultures around the world that do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Learn about different world religions and compare them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I recommend using the book, Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource (WOW) by Operation World Resources and edited by Molly Wall and Jason Mandryk. From, October through May, I will suggest countries and cultures to read about from this book during your family devotional time.



## Map Work

Create a Map Work Binder for each child (or add these pages to their Memory Work Binder). Each month, print the maps to be learned and memorized. Print one blank map and one labeled map for each child. Place the blank map and labeled map back to back inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet protector into the Map Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase Transparent Menu Covers. For younger students, print extra copies of the labeled maps to use as coloring sheets. Each day, trace with a dry-erase marker the labeled map. Once or twice a week, try to label the blank map. Once the country or continent is memorized, try drawing and labeling it from memory. Each week, pick a country to read about in Children's Atlas of God's World (CAofGW) by Froman or in The Travel Book Atlas (TB) by Lonely Planet. For example, if the monthly continent focus is South America, then pick 3-4 countries to read about that are located in South America. For more ideas on how to "travel the world" and do simple map work, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #69, "Passport to Learning."



## Read Aloud

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classics or picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your children. However, it is a time (and sanity) saver to read to the entire family books that are related to the topics you are studying in history, science, art, and music. Each month, I suggest a few classics to read as well as give links for recommended picture books. Don't let my recommendations add extra stress to your planning. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and packed curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.

## Math Morning Time

Math and games were a consistent part of our morning time routine. While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or games. Each month, recommended math picture books will be given to read aloud during your morning time. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There is an abundance of picture books that teach counting, shapes, and adding skills so I only purchased the ones my kids loved to read over and over again. Then each month, I would get from the library a ton more. New ones come out every year. Surprisingly, there are a ton of math picture books that teach higher-level math skills such as fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. This year while "traveling the world" during Morning Time, I highly recommend using the [Count Your Way Through Country Series](#) by James Haskins. Listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)

Check out my [Math Games PlayList](#) at my Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Help YouTube Channel. I share over a dozen simple math games you can play with a deck of cards or a pair of dice. There are games for all math levels, including algebra.



## Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, song, maps, and/or passages suggested for memorization. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside sheet protectors. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

## Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so I had to be intentional about including it. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read for enjoyment; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



## Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal.

This will be his/her nature journal for the year. Each week, nature study suggestions and activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside.

After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.

## Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the artist to use. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: [The Katie Books](#) by James Mayhew, [Anholt's Artists Books For Children](#) by Laurence Anholt, [Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists](#) by Mike Venezia, and [Smart About Art books](#). We also invested in many art and artist card games and board games to play during our Morning Time. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."](#)

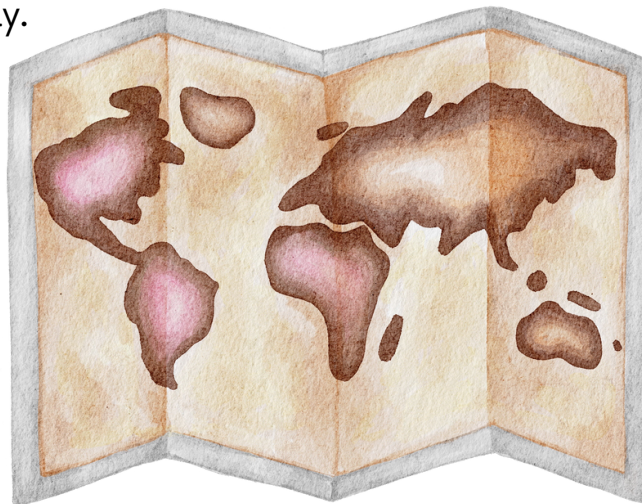
## Music Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, I combined Composer Studies with Folk and Hymn Studies. You can learn a lot about a culture or time period by singing, listening to, and learning American folk songs and folk songs from around the world. In addition, traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In September and December, I include a composer study. During the remaining months, your family will learn a new folk song or hymn related to the places and cultures discussed that month.

For a composer study, create a playlist of the composer of the month. Start with the musical piece or symphony listed in the Monthly Morning Time Plan. Spend one week learning about the composer, his or her life, the musical era of his/her work, and one or two musical pieces suggested in the plans. Use your playlist throughout the month. Use it as background music when playing, drawing, cooking, eating, driving, cleaning, and resting. The idea is to infuse your family's day with beautiful music. Just listen and enjoy. Eventually, your children will begin to recognize the composer's style or the style of a particular musical era.

For a folk song or hymn study, print the folk song or hymn for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. For fun, listen to and sing the suggested folk song from another country during Morning Time or throughout the day.



# February Morning Time Plans



Travel  
Asia (Part 1)

Carrie De Francisco  
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## Scripture

Pray for China, Japan, Korea, & Philippines in the WOW book.  
Read about Buddhism & Confucius in WOW book (pg 196-198).  
Throughout the month, read Galatians 5.  
Focus on the memory verse: Galatians 5:22-23.

## Map Work

Learn and memorize Eastern Asian Countries & Capitals. Older students should draw and label East Asia and Islands from memory.  
Read about East Asia (70-79) from CAofGW or visit [Kids World Travel](#) website.

## Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "[The Old Pond](#)" by Matsuo Basho

## Art Study

Study the painting, "[The Great Wave off Kanagawa](#)," and learn about Japanese artist, ukiyo-e painter and printmaker, [Hokusai](#).

## Music Study

Listen to and learn the Philippine folk song, "[Planting Rice](#)."

## Nature Study

Learn about unique flowers in Asia.

## Math Work

Read [Anno's math picture books](#) by Mitsumasa Anno.  
Read [Count Your Way Through China](#) and [Count Your Way Through Japan](#) by Jim Haskins (out of print)

## Read Aloud

Read [Everyone Cooks Rice](#) by Dooley, [Grandfather's Journey](#) by Say, [Our Double Fifth Celebration: Dragon Boat Festival](#), [Children's Day and Dano](#) by Qui, [Grandfather Tang](#) by Tompert, [The Korean Cinderella](#) by Clime, Asian themed picture books and/or one of the following chapter books: [Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime](#) by Bengé or [In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson](#) by Bao Lord.

## Cultural Connections

In the kitchen, make Chicken Curry (Thailand), Sunomono Cucumber Salad (Japan), Fried Rice (China), and Adobo Chicken (Philippines). Then play Chō-Han Bakuchi, Tangrams, Catching 7, 手指伸出, (Fingers Out), Sudoku, and Chinese Checkers.



Artist: Hokusai  
"The Great Wave off  
Kanagawa"  
1831, Japan  
Woodblock Print



## Week One

- 1). Print in color the "The Great Wave off Kanagawa."
- 2). Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the painting from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the painting. What is it? Where is it? What do they like about it?

## Week Two

- 1). Learn about the Japanese woodblock artist, Hokusai.
- 2). Born in Tokoyo, Hokusai was a ukiyo-e painter and woodblock printer. Hokusai had a long career, but he produced most of his important work after age 60. His most popular work is the ukiyo-e series, which are 36 views of Mount Fuji. "The Great Wave off Kanagawa" is the most famous in that series.
- 3). Look at other paintings by Hokusai such as "Kajikazawa in Kai Province". Which ones do you like best? Do you like his style? Explain why or why not.



# The Great Wave off Kanagawa



## Cuisine Spotlight: Japan

This is a traditional Japanese cucumber salad recipe to make! This side dish is light and crispy and super easy to make.

### Sunomono Salad Recipe (Japanese Cucumber Salad)



#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2-3 crunchy Japanese or Persian cucumbers
- 1/3 tsp salt to draw out moisture
- 3 tbsp rice vinegar
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp sesame seeds

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Slice all the cucumbers very thin and transfer to a medium-sized bowl.
2. Sprinkle with salt and toss with your hands to ensure even salt coverage to draw out moisture. Let stand for 5-10 minutes.
3. Then rinse the cucumbers thoroughly to remove the salt, drain, then squeeze all the cucumbers to remove excess moisture. The goal is to remove as much water as you can. Don't be afraid to squeeze hard, the cucumbers can take it!
4. Mix the rice vinegar, sugar, salt, and soy sauce until dissolved, then add to cucumbers.
5. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and serve.



## Cuisine Spotlight: Thailand

### Chicken curry

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons yellow curry powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 & 1/2 pounds chicken breast, chopped
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 13-ounce can coconut milk
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 TBs garlic, smashed and minced
- 1 TBS fresh ginger, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup chicken broth\*
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch & 2 tablespoons cold water (vegan) or 1/2 cup of yogurt.



#### DIRECTIONS

1. In a large saute 12-inch skillet, toast the spices in a dry pan. Let toast for 1-2 minutes. Continually stir the dry spices so they don't scorch. Place in a small bowl.
2. Sprinkle raw chopped chicken with the seasoning mix. Make sure all of the chicken pieces are coated.
3. Saute all of the vegetables in oil until they are translucent.
4. Add lemon juice, coconut milk, broth, and seasoned chicken to the pan.
5. Let the mixture come to a gentle boil over medium-high heat, then reduce the heat to a simmer over medium-low heat for 30 minutes.
6. Add yogurt (or cornstarch slurry) to the chicken curry and stir. Let it thicken before serving.

## Cuisine Spotlight: China

### Fried Rice

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups cooked rice (day-old rice works best)
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- 1 small white onion, chopped
- 1 cup frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 2-3 tablespoons soy sauce more or less to taste
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons green onions, chopped, optional



#### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat a large skillet or wok to medium heat. Add the sesame oil, onion, peas, and carrots. Cook until tender.
2. Slide the onion, peas, and carrots to the side, and pour the beaten eggs onto the other side of the skillet. Using a spatula, scramble the eggs. Once cooked, mix the eggs with the vegetable mix.
3. Add the rice to the veggie and egg mixture. Pour the soy sauce on top. Stir and fry the rice and veggie mixture until warmed through and combined.
4. Add chopped green onions if desired.



## Cuisine Spotlight: Malaysia

Chicken slowly braised in vinegar, soy sauce, garlic and bay leaves is delicious. This classic recipe for chicken adobo in the slow cooker can be made a day ahead and tastes even better the next day!

### Crock Pot Adobo

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 pounds chicken pieces ( thighs and drumsticks work best)
- 2 tbsp cooking oil of choice
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1 whole garlic, cloves separated, crushed
- 2 tsp whole black peppercorns, (or freshly ground pepper – to taste)
- 3 pieces dried bay leaves
- 1 tbsp sugar or to taste



#### DIRECTIONS:

- 1.If you have time, brown the chicken pieces first then place into the crock pot.
- 2.Mix the liquid ingredients together with the sugar.
- 3.Add everything to the crock pot, stir, and cook on low for 5-6 hours or until chicken is tender.
- 4.Serve with freshly cooked rice. Can be made a day or 2 ahead.



## Catching 7: Chinese Game

Originally played with small inch-square rice bags, this traditional Chinese game is similar to Jacks and can be played with homemade rice bags or pebbles.

### You will need:

7 small-inch-square bags filled with beans or rice. These are a fun project for kids to make themselves, and they will enjoy playing the game even more when they have their own "pieces" to play with. You can also purchase bean bags.

### DIRECTIONS:

Holds all seven pieces in one hand. Drop them onto the surface, trying to spread them out so that the pieces aren't touching.

Pick one of the pieces up and toss it in the air, grabbing another piece from the surface with the same hand before catching the original piece before it falls back to the surface.

Still holding two pieces, throw one up in the air, grab another from the table, and catch the air-bound piece again. Continue until you hold all seven in your hand.

Obviously, the game gets harder the more pieces you hold in your hand. If at any time one of the pieces falls out of your hand, the air-bound piece falls back onto the surface, or any of the pieces not being grabbed are touched or moved, play passes to the next player.





## 手指伸出, (Fingers Out)

This is a simple guessing game played by two children! It is a fun way to practice addition too.

### DIRECTIONS:

The children face each other and count to 3.

On "3" they put out one hand - either as a fist or with 1, 2 or 3 fingers extended, shouting out at the same time a number between 1 and 6.

Add up the number of fingers extended.

If a child guessed the exact number of fingers shown, they score 2 points.  
If a child guessed nearest the number of fingers shown, they score 1 point.  
If there is a tie, no points are scored.

The first to score 10 - wins.

For fun, dust off the Chinese Checker board and play as a family.





## Cho- Han Bukuci

This is a simple Japanese game using two dice.

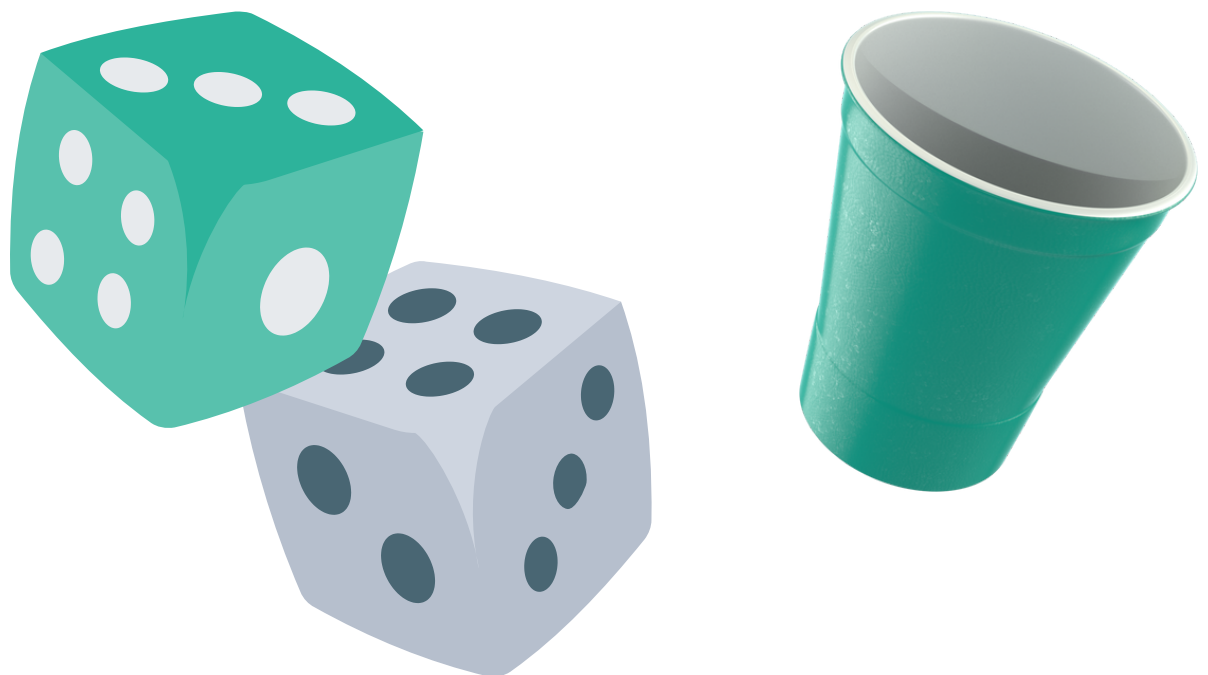
### DIRECTIONS:

One player is "Han" (odd #) and the other player is "Cho" (even #1).

Players take turns rolling the two dice and finding the sum by adding the two numbers rolled.

If the sum of the two dice is odd, "Han" player earns a point.  
If the sum of the two dice is even, "Cho" player earns a point.

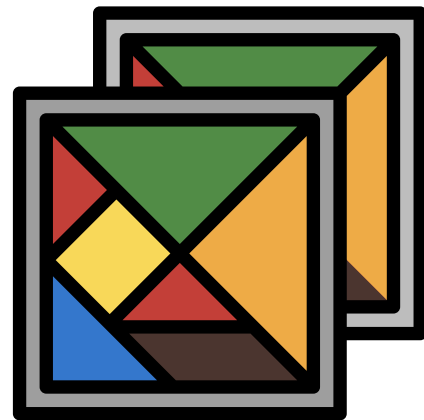
The first to score 20 - wins.



# Tangrams

**Print the Tangram template. Cut out the 7 pieces.**

- 1). Try to create a square with all 7 pieces.
- 2). Try to create a triangle with all 7 pieces.
- 3). Try to create a rectangle with all 7 pieces.



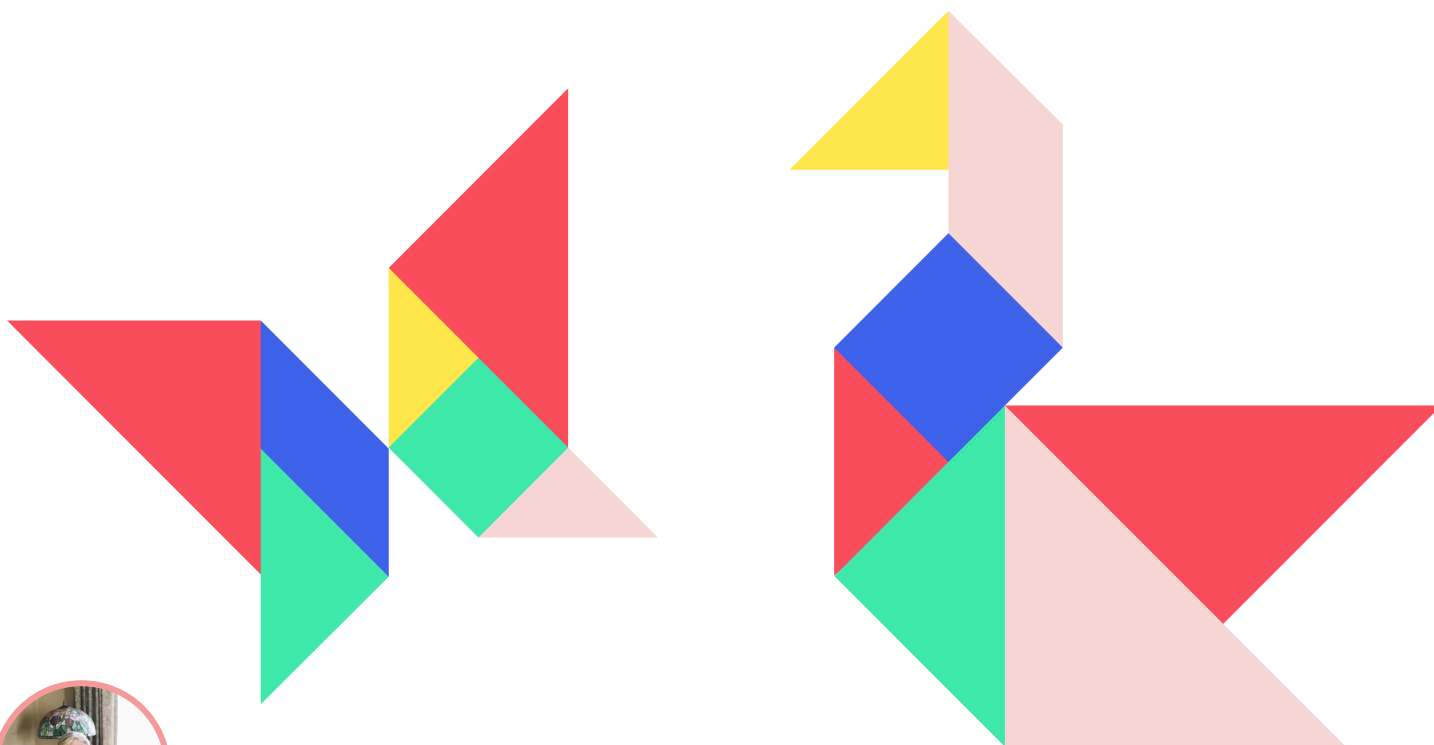
**Print the two Tangram puzzles.**

- 1). Using all 7 pieces, try to create a giraffe.
- 2) Using all 7 pieces, try to create a fish.

**Read Grandfather Tang's Story by Ann Tompert.**

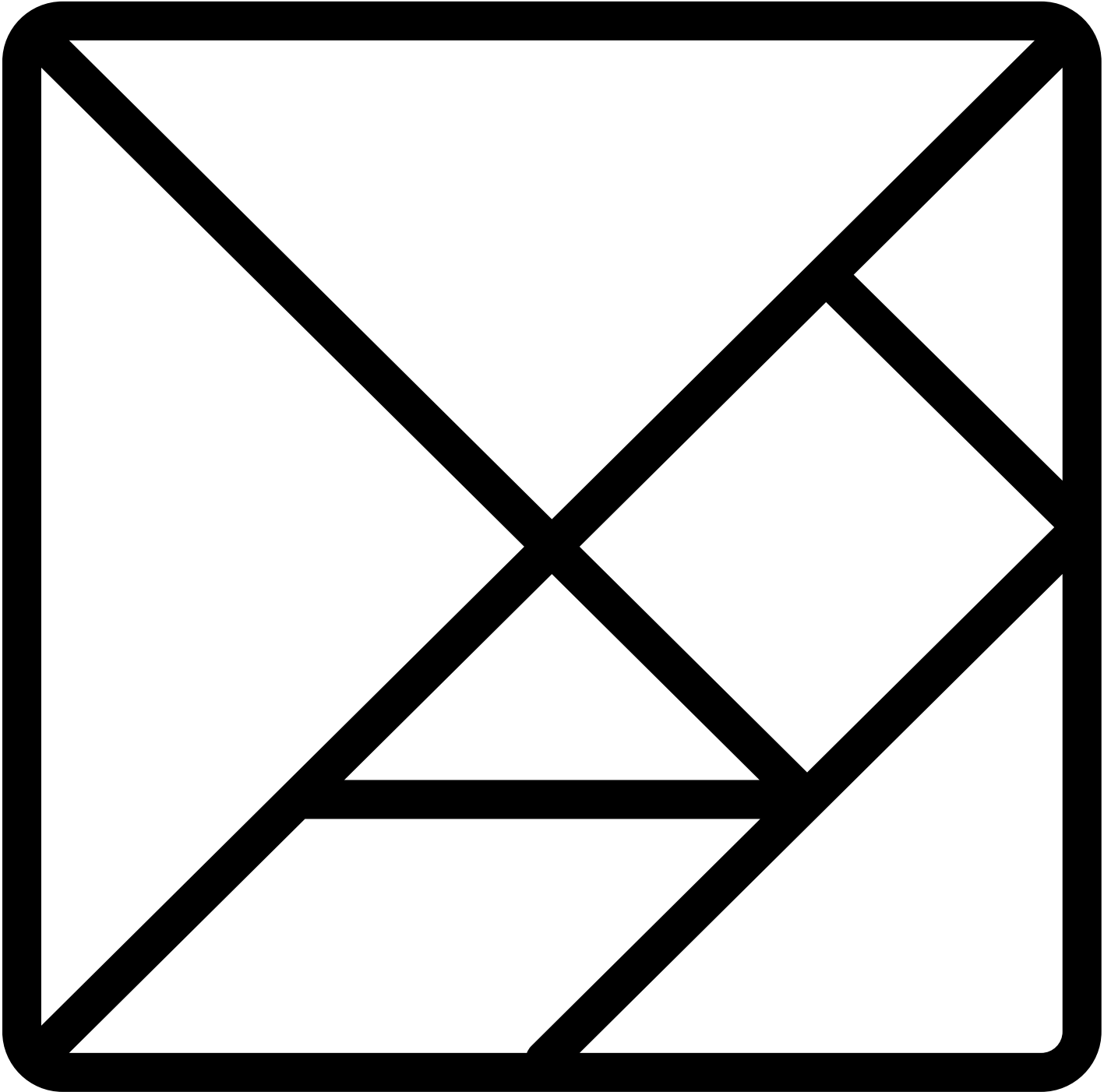
Try to solve the tangram puzzles in the story.

**For fun, solve tangram puzzles online.**





# Tangram Template



# Sudoku

The object of Sudoku is to place the numbers 1 through 9 in each Quadrant, Row, and Column without any number being repeated.

PUZZLE #1

	9	6		4			3	
	5	7	8	2				
1			9			5		
		9		1				8
5								2
4				9		6		
		4			3			1
				7	9	2	6	
	2			5		9	8	

PUZZLE #2

		7				9		8
	3		1	7				4
					6			
6	9	8	7	4		3		
		3		1		4		
		1		3	9	7	6	2
			4					
9				5	1		4	
4		5				1		

					9			6
					3	8	5	1
	6	2		1	5			
		7					6	
	2	1	9	7	6	3	8	
	3					1		
			4	5		9	7	
2	5	8	6					
4			3					

PUZZLE #3

2	9			7	4			
	1					4		
6	7		9		5			
	8		2		6			
	6		8	4	7		2	
			5		1		8	
			7		8		9	2
		6					1	
			4	1			5	8

PUZZLE #4



Don't forget to  
check out other  
*Coffee With Carrie*  
RESOURCES



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BOOK



[Just Breathe \(and Take a Sip of Coffee\):  
Homeschool in Step with God](#)



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Travel Plans



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OCTOBER: North America & Canada

NOVEMBER: South America

DECEMBER: Europe

JANUARY: Mexico & Central America

FEBRUARY: Asia

MARCH: Asia and India

APRIL: Asia and Middle East

MAY: Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

SUMMER: Africa & Antarctica



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DE FRANCISCO

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