

# Perseverance Puzzles

This is the third lesson of the Integrity unit. At this age, the concept of integrity can be difficult to understand. This lesson focuses on perseverance and how it connects to honesty. Students will work together in groups to create tangram objects that become more and more challenging throughout the game.

## Integrity Sub-Concept(s)

Perseverance, Kindness

## Lesson Timeframe

45 minutes

## Required Materials

- Tangrams for each group
- The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle

## Standards Map

This lesson aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.



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See last page for details.

## And Lesson Objective

Students will:

- Demonstrate perseverance through a math exercise.
- Explain how being honest helps others trust you.

## Teacher Connection/Self-Care

The next promise focuses on how to continue the topic of integrity throughout your day, every day. Promise #3 is, “I promise to teach from bell to bell.” While five minutes here and there to grade, lesson plan, or update the newsletter doesn’t seem like a lot, it adds up. You only have these students for a limited time each day, and every day is not guaranteed. Illness, vacations, transitions, and life struggles all take time away from your time with that student. Five extra minutes daily during guided reading could be just enough to get that struggling reader over the hurdle! Five minutes every day for a week adds up to one more math lesson you could have included, an impromptu field trip outdoors for an alphabet-focused nature walk, or even some much needed read aloud time. Every child counts; every minute counts. Use your time wisely to create stronger connections with them.

## Tips for Diverse Learners

- Divide the groups into heterogeneous groups so that everyone can participate.
- Give struggling students a sample object to copy or cover up with the tangram shapes.
- Add more challenging instructions to advanced learners.



## Share

5 minutes

Play 2 truths and a lie:

One person stands up and thinks of 2 true things about themselves and 1 lie. They must tell all three things to the teacher. The person will then announce the three things about themselves. Write all three things on the board. The rest of the class will vote on which two are true and which one is the lie. People can ask 3 questions to help them decide which is true.

The person will then reveal the correct answers.

Repeat this with 3-4 volunteers.

Ask the class: *Were you able to figure out the lie? Did asking questions help you? If so, you used perseverance to find out the answers!*



## Inspire

### **What is Perseverance?**

7-10 minutes

Explain that perseverance is when we keep trying, even when something is difficult. It means we refuse to give up! Have you ever struggled with something new? Maybe when you learned how to ride a bike, tie your shoes, or pour water into a cup? All of those skills take practice, because practice makes perfect! Whenever we have to practice something, we are using perseverance. Sometimes new things are very, very hard for us to learn. We might feel like giving up because we will never learn how to do it. When you feel this way, KEEP GOING! You can use perseverance to learn that new skill. Kind words from your friends, help from your parents, or compassion from me as your teacher can all help you keep going. We can all help you to persevere and reach your goals!

### **Read Aloud: *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle**

10-15 minutes

Link for a read aloud if needed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls6wTeT2cKA>

After the story, review how the tiny seed used perseverance.

What challenges does it face?

The seed must fly to a new planting location. It goes slower than the others, but it perseveres!

The seed must avoid the bird. It is so small the bird doesn't see it!

The children trample another plant and it dies.

A child picks the flower next to him so it doesn't grow into a tree.

Emphasize that this seed seems not quite good enough when he compares himself to the other seeds. However, his perseverance helps him to be the

only seed that actually makes it into a tree! We all learn and grow at different speeds, but if we use perseverance, we can all accomplish our goals!



## Empower

30 minutes

Today we will play a math game to practice perseverance. We have been learning about many math concepts. Today we will use tangram shapes to create basic pictures. Sometimes I will be tricky with my directions, so listen carefully. You will work in groups of 2-4 (depending on how many tangrams you have for this activity).

Pass out an equal amount of tangrams for each group. You may want to sort them so every table has the same number of each shape as well. After you announce each direction, circulate throughout the class to observe what the groups have created. Give praise for each object created, even if you struggle to find a resemblance to the item you gave them. Their creativity is just as important as their ability to actually create the object. Here is a list of objects for the groups to build:

- A House
- A House using only squares
- A Car
- A Car without any circles
- A Bird
- A bird without any triangles



## Reflect

5-7 minutes

- Have each group share their favorite object to create.
- Which object was the most difficult to make? Why?
- How did the people in your group help you to create each object?
- Did you see any other groups struggling? Were you able to help them persevere through? If so, how?

*Perseverance helps us learn new things. We must be honest in our struggles and reach out to others when we are struggling. It can be tempting to lie or give up when things become too challenging. If we are honest about needing help and use perseverance to reach our goals, anything is possible!*



## Extension Ideas

- Have the entire class combine all of the tangrams and repeat the activity using everyone's contributions. Can you use ALL of the tangrams?



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<https://casel.org/guide/kindness-in-the-classroom/>