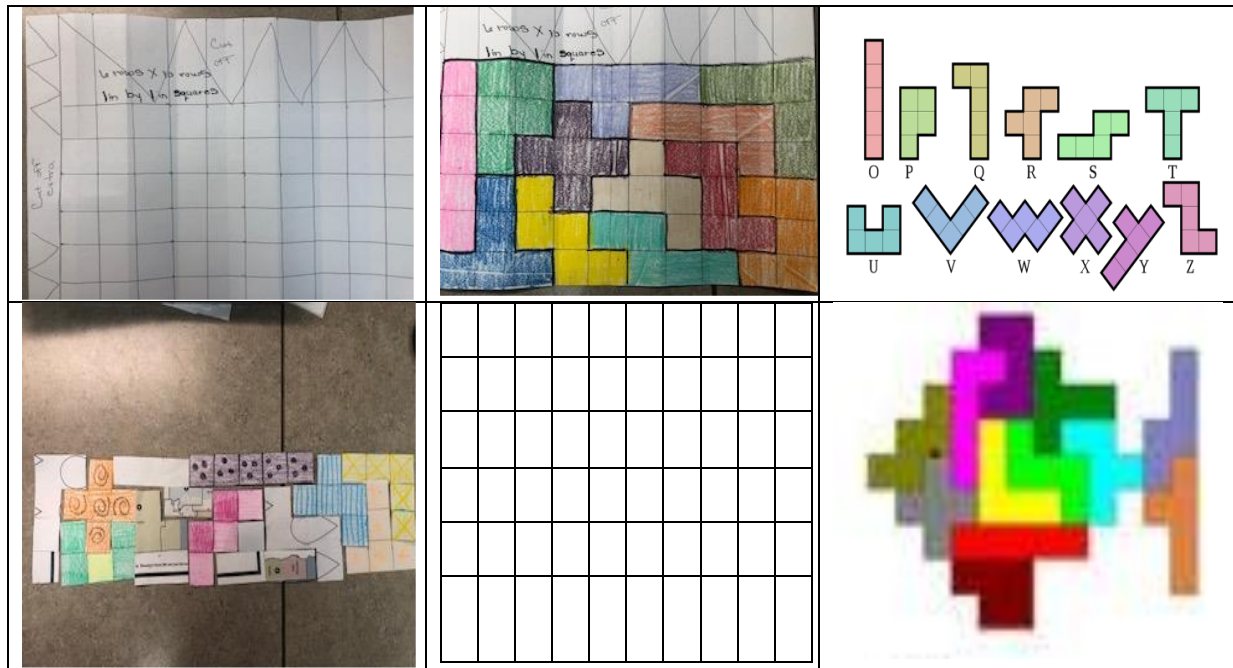This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. If you are just sitting around waiting for warmer weather, you might want to use your time making fun puzzles with pentominoes. A pentomino is a shape made up of 5 individual squares. Pentominoes were said to be first presented to a class of students at the Harvard Mathematics Club by Solomon W. Golomb in 1953. Mr. Golomb might have given these shapes their name, but an English inventor of puzzles, Henry Ernest Dudeny published the first problem in 1907. So how many years later are we still having fun with these simple shapes, each made from 5 squares?

1-Make 6 rows by 10 rows of 1 inch squares. Color or outline the shapes that are in the rectangle above. Remember each piece will have 5 squares. The pieces actually look like the letters "O" through "Z" of the alphabet. You can color the pieces all the same color, each one a different color, or color any pattern you would like. You may want to color all the pieces before you cut them out, so you do not end up coloring on the wrong side. If this happens the pieces will not fit back together correctly. You can glue the pieces to cardboard or cover each piece with clear tape to make them a bit sturdier. Make another grid with the same 6 rows by 10 rows. Leave this grid blank and use as the puzzle board and try to fit the pieces back together.

2-One of the games is played on an 8×8 grid by two or three players. Players take turns in placing pentominoes on the board so that they do not overlap with existing tiles and no tile is used more than once. The objective is to be the last player to place a tile on the board. This version of Pentominoes is called "Golomb's Game". You can also try and use the pieces to design your own "Pet"-minoes. Young artist can count the squares on each piece. Add the letters for the color on each pieces. There are so many possibilites to have fun!

Have a fun week with your Petiminoes!

- Ms. Susan

PENTOMINO PUZZLES
ANIMALS 1 COLLECTION
PUZZLES 1 - 18
COLOUR SOLUTIONS

bull

butterfly

canary

chick

cat1

cat 2

dog 1

dog 2

dog 3

crocodile

hedgehog

fish

stag

elephant

pigeon

giraffe

kangaroo

ostrich

6 × 10

5 × 12

4 × 15

3 × 20