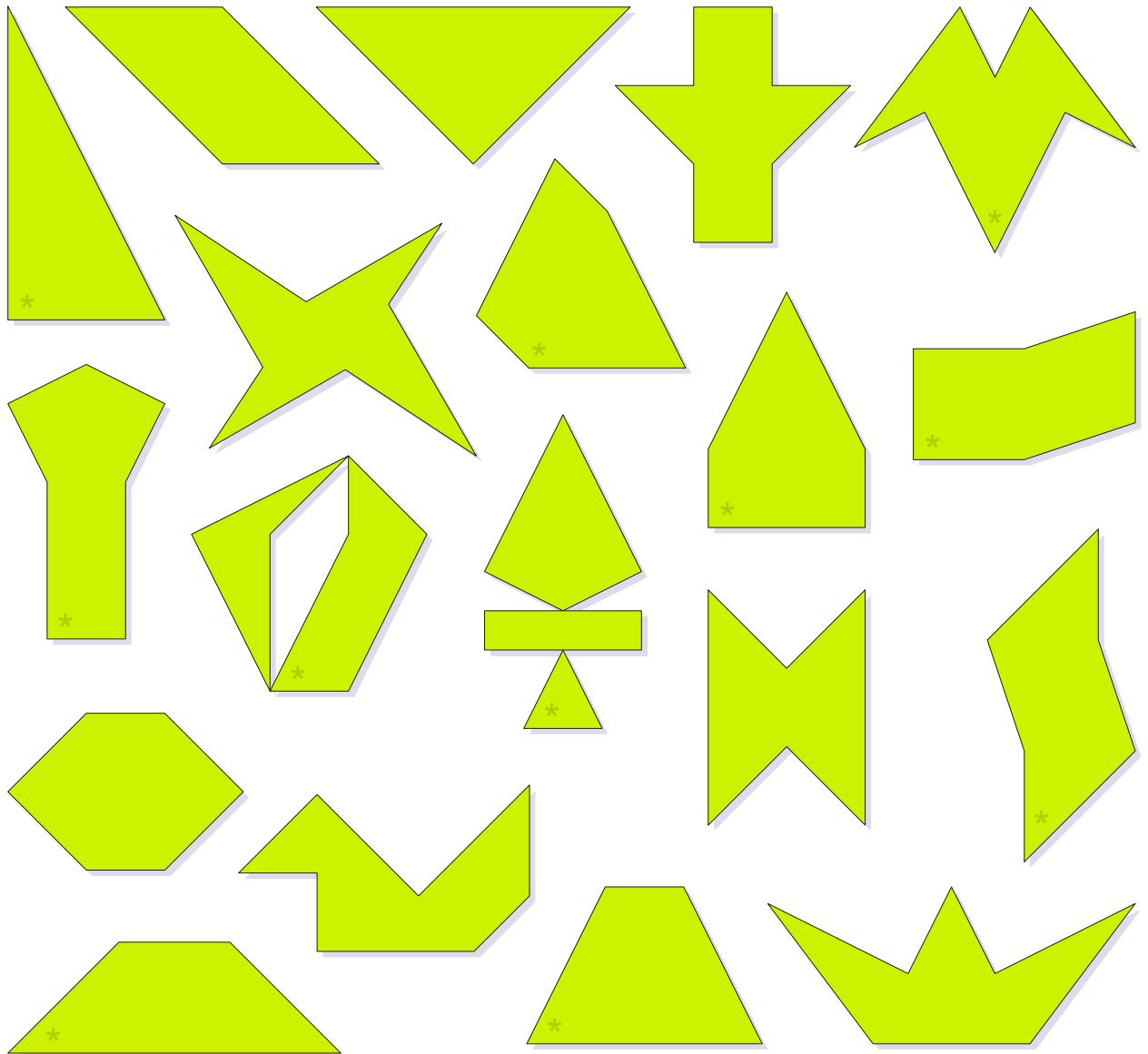


Stomachion is considered to be the world's oldest puzzle. The history of the puzzle is estimated to be 2200 years old, tracing its roots back to the Ancient Greece and the third century B.C. An ingenious inventor Archimedes of Syracuse (287 B.C. - 212 B.C.) is often credited with creating of the puzzle. Even one of the other names for the puzzle is "The Loculus of Archimedes." Unfortunately, today it is not known for sure if he invented the puzzle or just explored the geometrical aspects of it. The latter version is treated to be more probable. Though, who knows... In addition to this introductory paragraph on the puzzle's history, it should be mentioned that the puzzle was discovered accidentally, in 1846, but then again lay in obscurity for over a century.

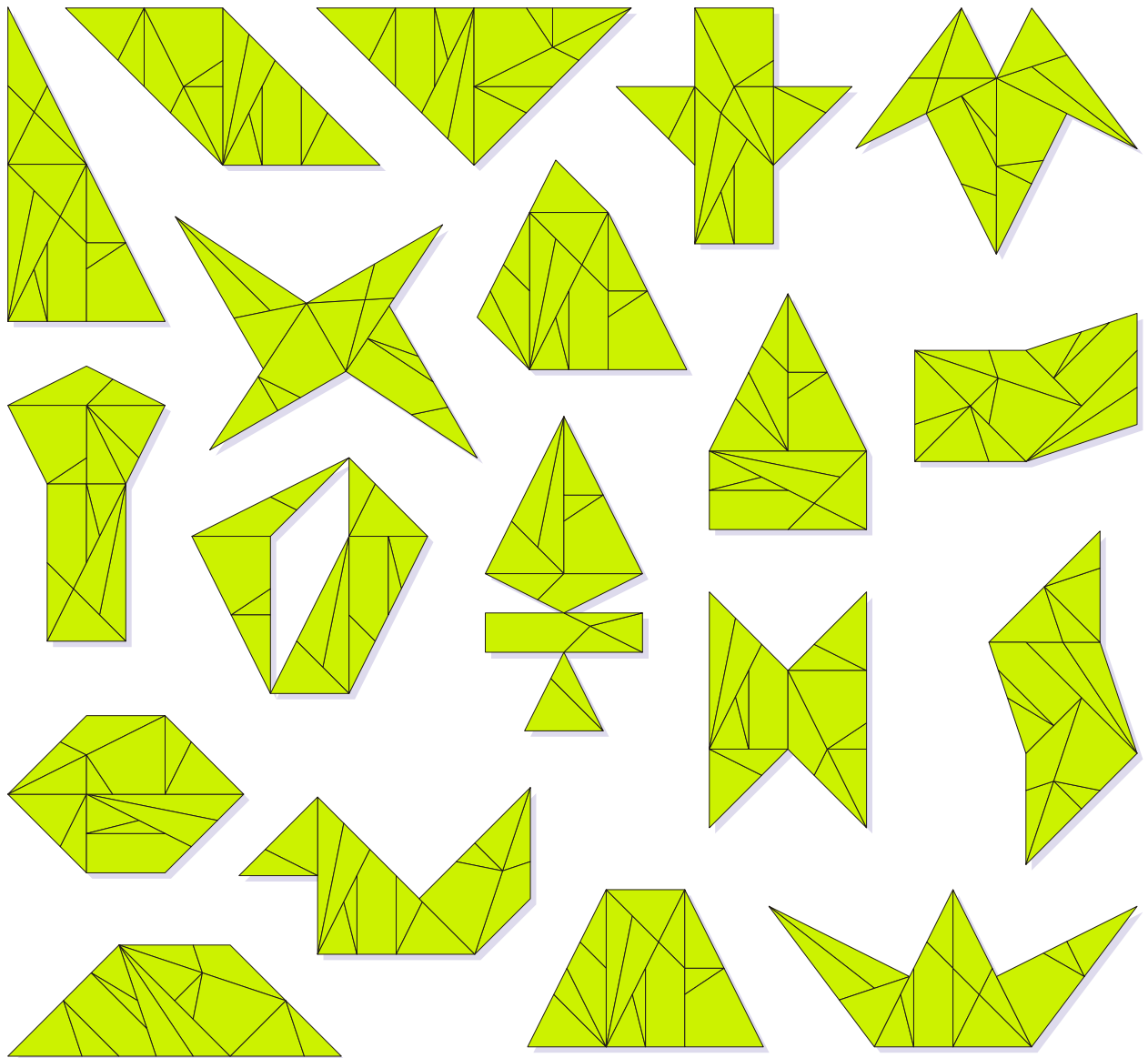


The puzzle consists of 14 pieces of various polygonal shapes originally forming a square. The object of the puzzle is to rearrange the pieces to form interesting shapes. These can be shapes of people, animals, geometrical shapes, etc. A selection of such shapes is presented in the illustration above.

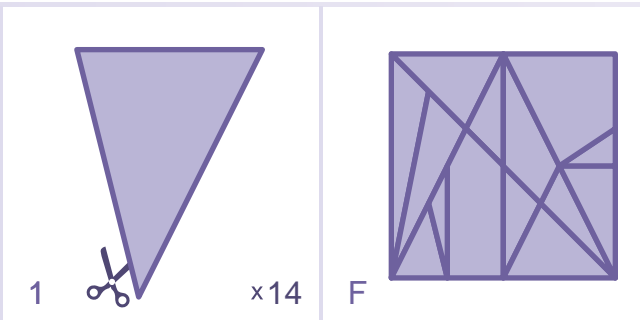
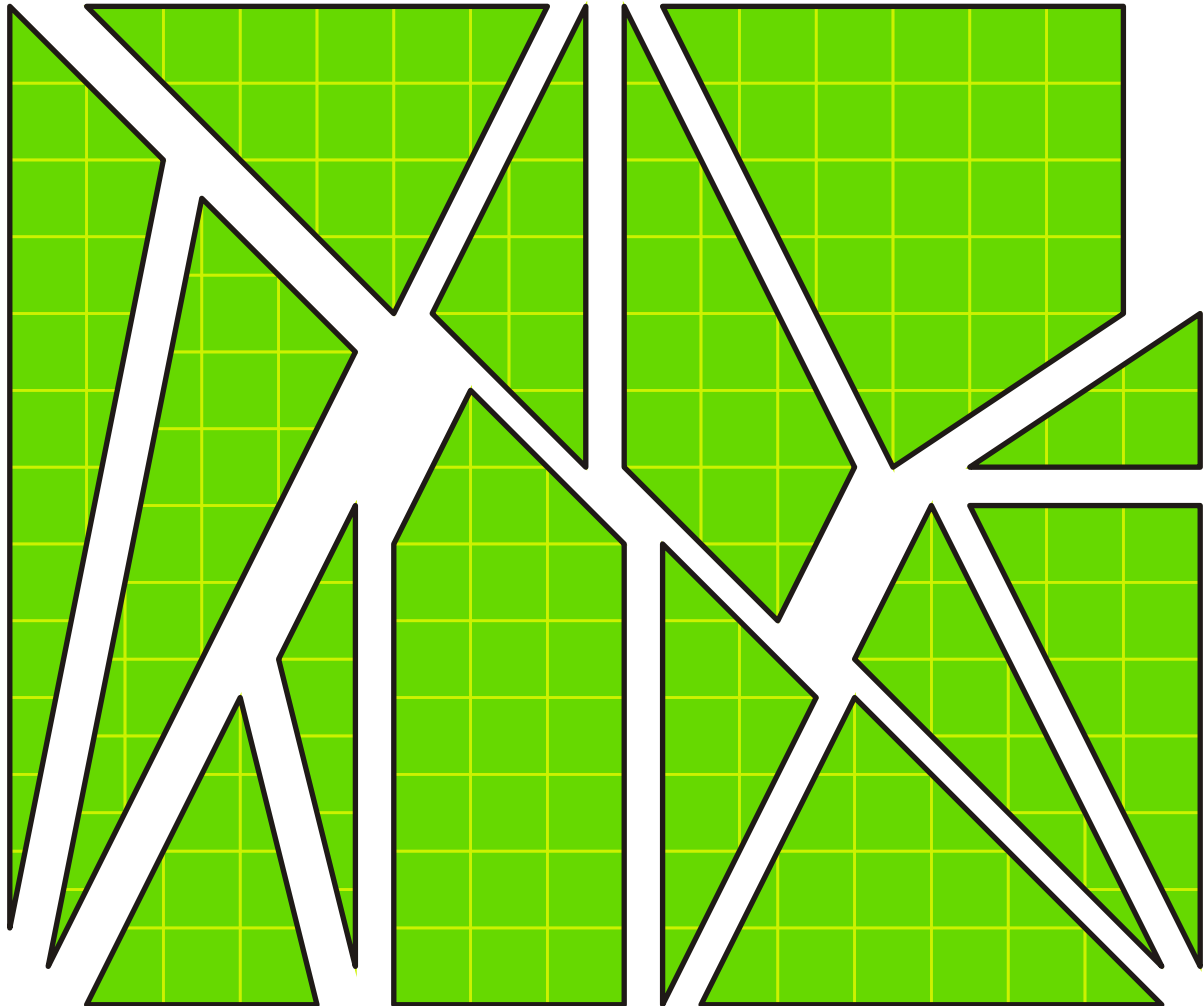
The shapes marked with asterisk were created by Peter Grabarchuk specially for Puzzles.COM.

Last Updated: March 5, 2006

Page 2 of 4



The solutions to the shapes are shown in the illustration above.



To produce the pieces first print them out. Then follow the diagram shown above - from step 1 to step F (finish).