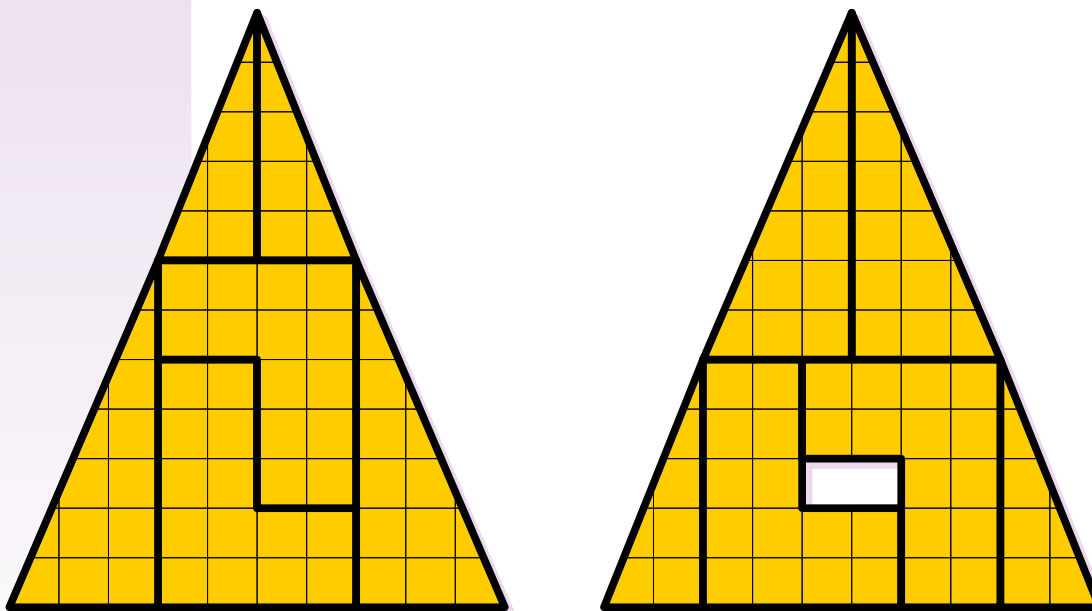


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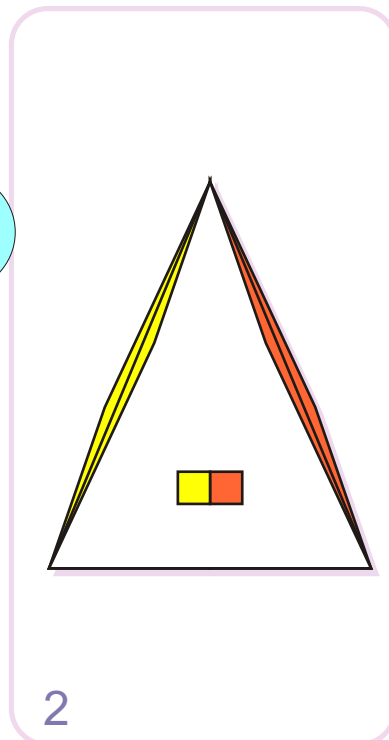
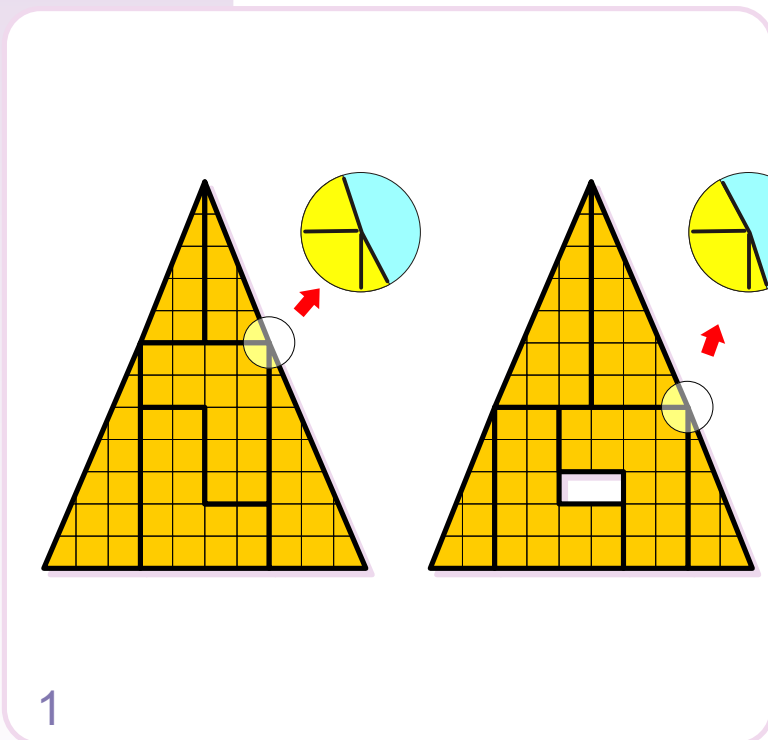
Magic Triangle

after Martin Gardner

Arrange the pieces into the triangle shown in the left part of the illustration above. Now rearrange all the pieces as shown in the right diagram. You may see a triangle of apparently the same size, but now with a rectangular hole 1x2 within it. How did this happen?

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Magic Triangle (secret)

This clever trick is based on the great paradox invented by Paul Curry, a magician from New York City.

In fact, in both triangles their sides aren't perfectly straight; in the first triangle its sides are slightly concave, while in the second one they are convex a little bit as shown in Figure 1.

In this way the differences between the triangles' outlines form along their sides two elongated parallelogram spaces. Their total area is equal to two small square units, and this makes a hole in the second triangle. This is shown in Figure 2. Note that both parallelogram spaces are enlarged to show the principle of this trick.

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