

# Launch Pad Squares

## Teacher Information

Students will work in groups, without talking, to assemble five six-by-six squares in the shortest amount of time possible.

### Purpose

To give students a psychomotor/spatial understanding of the brainstorming process, similar to the first step of creative trial and error.

### Materials

1 set of squares (instructions on next page)  
5 envelopes  
table or desks pushed together

### Procedures

1. Tell the students they are not to talk during the exercise. They must work silently together to build five launch site squares that are six-by-six inches in size.
2. Pass out the envelopes, one set (A-E) per table.
3. Allow between five to ten minutes for students to accomplish the task.
4. Give a two-minute warning.
5. Monitor the nonverbal cues-remind students not to talk.

### Discussion (Use questions to reflect the value of the session.)

- What did you find most difficult about the activity and why?
- What types of steps did you HAVE to follow to make sure the job was done?
- What types of problems came up during the activity?
- How do you think this activity would help you prepare for a mission?
- What two positive things did you discover about your teammates during this activity?

# Launch Pad Squares (continued)

## Teacher Information

### DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING A SET OF SQUARES

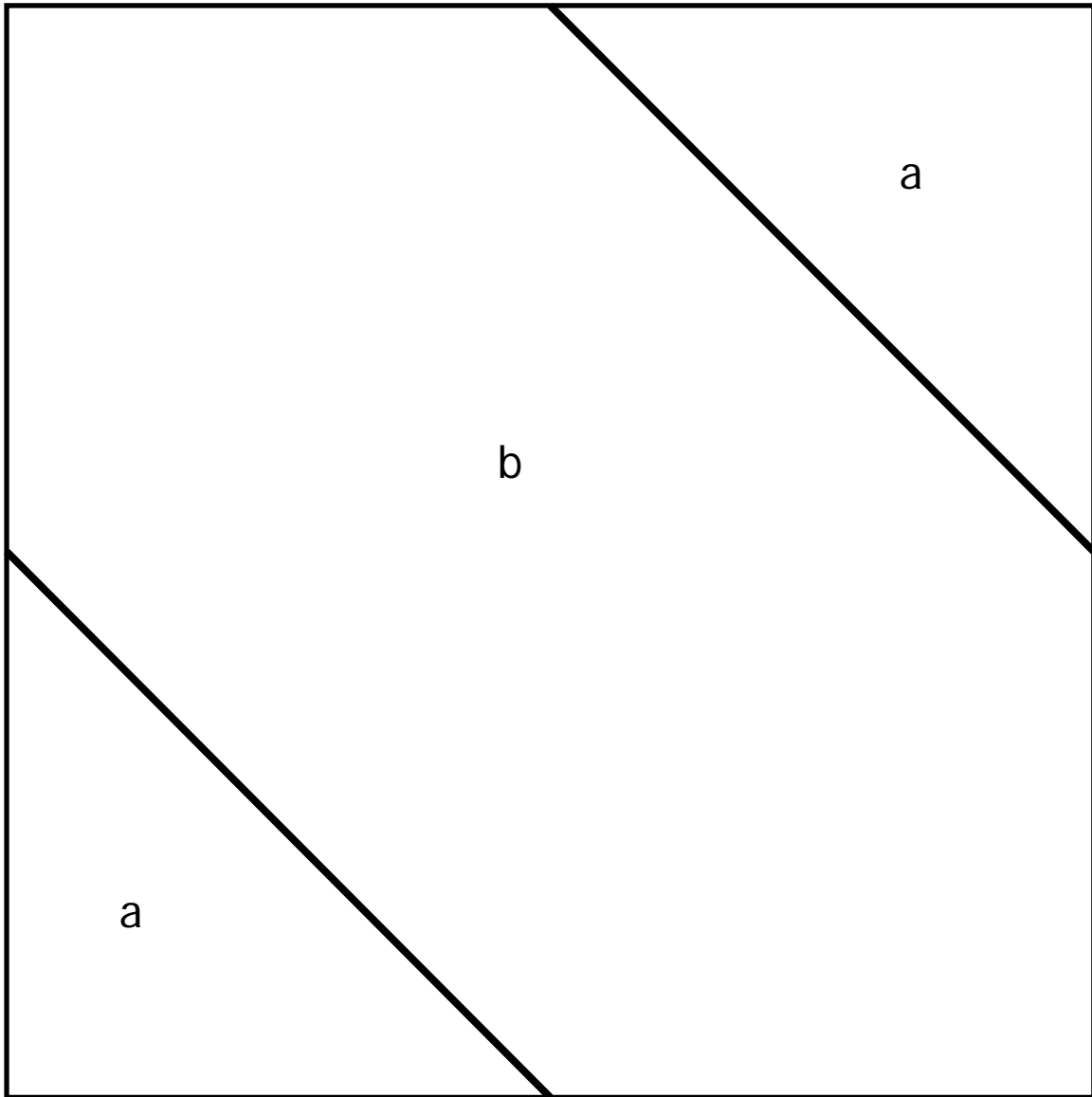
For each five-member group, you will need a set of five envelopes containing pieces of cardboard or cardstock. The pieces are cut in different patterns so that when properly arranged with pieces from some of the other four envelopes, they will form five squares of equal size. **Important: The lines should be cut so that when the pieces are cut out all pieces marked "a" will be exactly the same size, the pieces marked "c" will be the same size and the pieces marked "f" will be the same size. By using multiples of three inches, several combinations will be possible that will enable participants to form one or two squares, but ONLY ONE combination is possible that will form five six-by-six squares.**

Distribute the pieces among the five envelopes as follows:

Envelope	Pieces
A	i, h, e
B	a, a, a, c
C	a, j
D	d, f
E	g, b, f, c

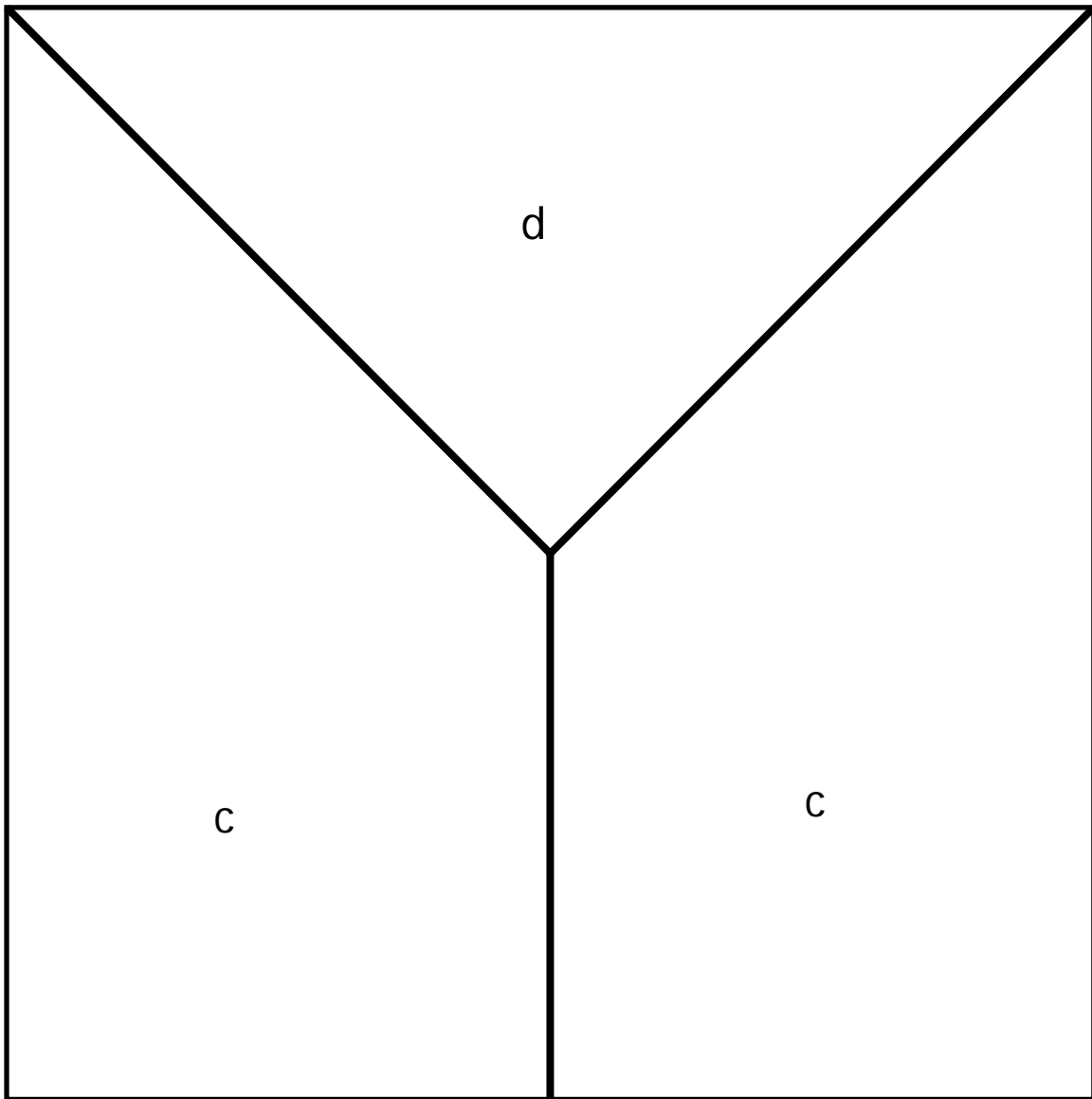
# Launch Pad Squares (continued)

Teacher Information



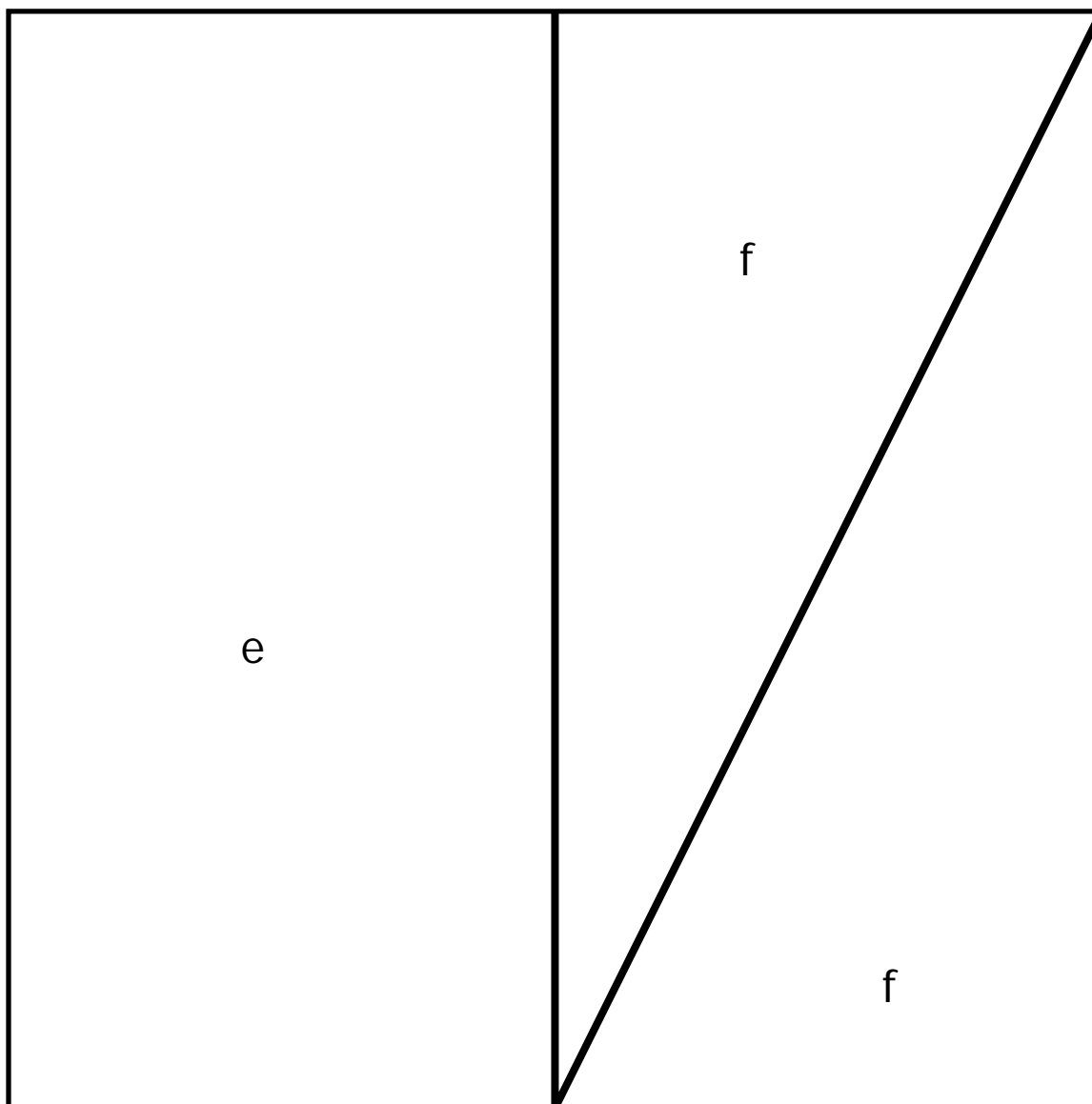
# Launch Pad Squares (continued)

## Teacher Information



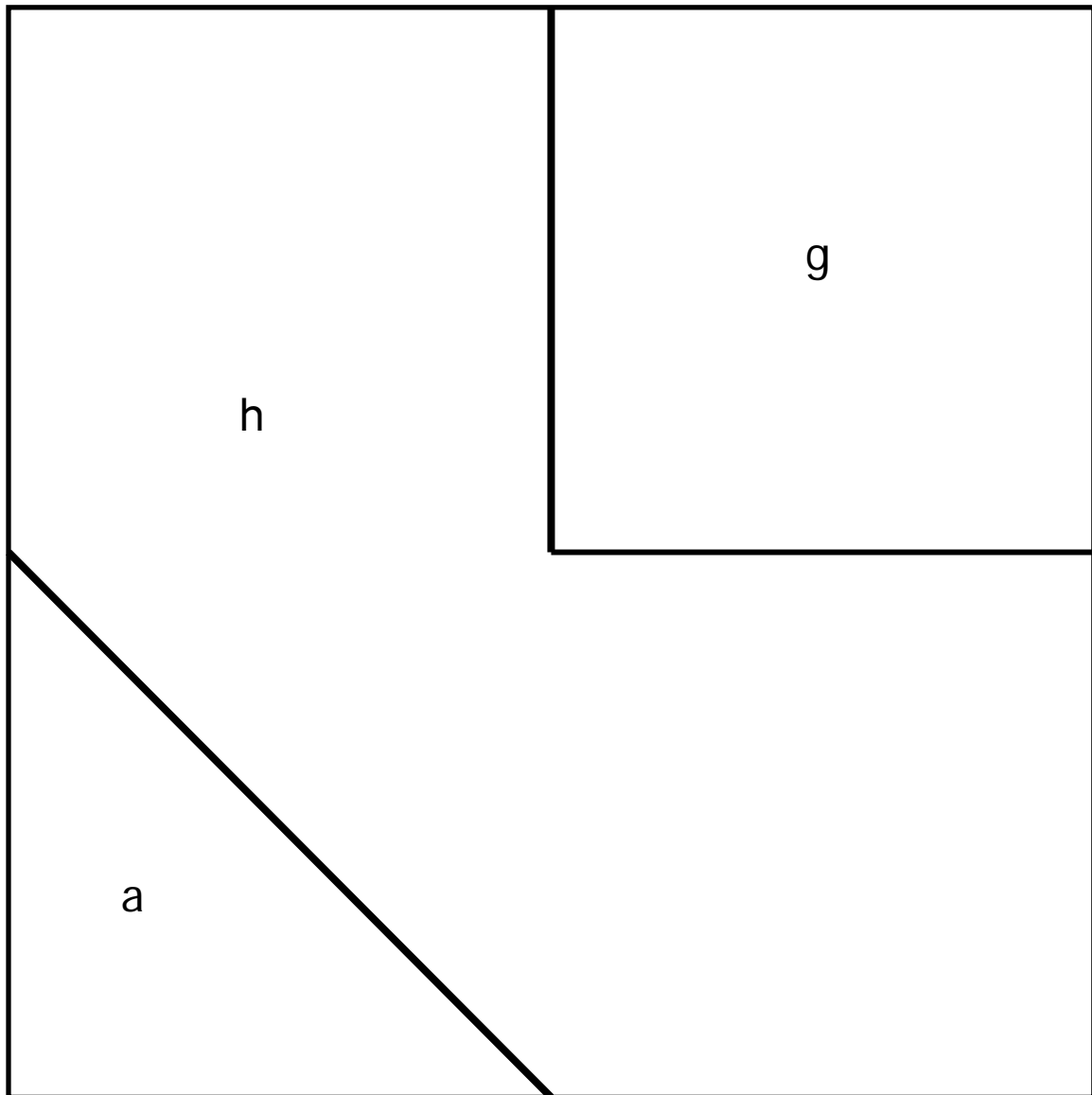
# Launch Pad Squares (continued)

## Teacher Information



# Launch Pad Squares (continued)

Teacher Information



# Launch Pad Squares (continued)

Teacher Information

