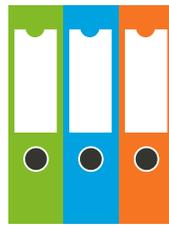
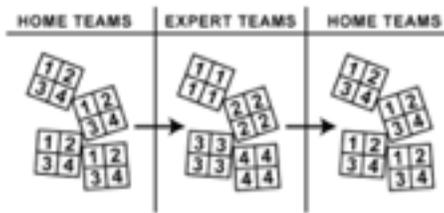


# Jigsaw



This is a **cooperative learning activity**. Students form a home team and are set a home team problem. They break up into 'expert groups' and gain expert knowledge that feeds into the overall problem. Just as in a **jigsaw puzzle**, each student's part is essential for the completion and full understanding of the home team problem.

The reason this activity is so effective is that each student's part of the puzzle is essential, empowering them as experts and challenging them to be accountable to the home team.



- Divide the class into groups of 4,5 or 6 (depending on how many pieces you want in the jigsaw). This is the home team.
- Assign these roles: Recorder, Time Keeper, Reporter & Manager.
- Present the home team with an overall problem to be solved. This could be in the form of a question or a scenario that needs to be investigated.
- Break students up into 'expert groups', ideally at stations around the room if space allows.
- Students gain knowledge at their expert stations which feeds into the home team problem. This knowledge could be gained through reading of information and extracting key points or by solving a mini-problem.
- After students have gained expert knowledge, re-form the home team. Get students to share their expert knowledge. Finally, they use the expert knowledge to solve the overall problem.
- The recorder keeps notes for the group, the manager ensures the group stays on task and that everyone has an input, the reporter gives feedback to the class on the group's decisions.

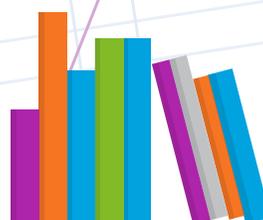
## Tips

- Float from group to group, observing the process. If any group is having trouble (e.g., a member is dominating or disruptive), make an appropriate intervention. Eventually, it's best for the manager to handle this task. Managers can be trained by whispering an instruction on how to intervene, until they get the hang of it.
- Be comfortable with letting the groups get on with the work. You may find that as students take on their expert roles, they will be highly motivated to complete their work individually.
- At the end of the session, give a quiz on the material so that students quickly come to realise that these sessions are not just fun and games but really count.
- Allow time for discussion with students.
- Remind Time Keepers to focus on more than just the end time.



### Further Information

Further reading and support on implementing this strategy is available on [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)



## Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Managing myself
- ▶ Being literate
- ▶ Working with others

## Resources

- ▶ Home team problem sheets
- ▶ Expert group sheets

## Room Layout

Groups of 4, 5 or 6 students at each desk

Expert stations ideally distributed around the room

## Assessment

Short quiz at the end to recap/summarise the learning

Observation of group activity

Questioning both individually and in groups throughout the activity

## Supporting Homework

Home work can be informed by the thinking of the group. Recorders can share the notes at the end of the group discussions.

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