

Jigsaw Strategy

What is it?

Jigsaw is a cooperative learning structure that promotes sharing and understanding ideas and content.

What is its purpose?

Jigsaw facilitates learning in two areas:

- the social skills of positive interdependence and equal participation
- the academic skill of acquiring knowledge and understanding.

Expert group members share information with home team members so that each member of the team puts a piece of the 'jigsaw' together, forming the basis of holistic understanding of a topic.

How do I do it?

- Organise the class into cooperative home groups which suit the context (eg. groups of five for an information report). Give each student an area of the information report to investigate (eg. location including map, appearance, food, life cycle, habits).
- Organise the class into cooperative expert groups by teaming up students with materials. For example, all location students form a group together, appearance students form a group, and so on. This group reads the materials, takes notes and discusses the best methods of sharing their acquired knowledge and understanding with their home group.
- Organise the expert groups to return to their home groups. Each student presents their understanding of their part of the report and the home group must then use the information and demonstrate understanding of the whole topic.

How can I adapt it?

There are limitless ways of adapting the jigsaw structure in terms of the size of the groups, the range of topics and the demonstration of mastery of those topics.

(Adapted from <http://www.discover.tased.edu.au/english/jigsaw.htm>)