

Jigsaw to support students to engage with learning in the physically distanced classroom and to engage with learning from home



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.

Jigsaw in the physically distanced classroom

- Divide the class into Breakout rooms/virtual groups of 4,5 or 6 on their devices (depending on how many pieces you want in the jigsaw). This is the home team.
- Assign individual roles to each team member: Recorder, Timekeeper, 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).
- Now rearrange students up into second breakout 'expert groups' via online platforms.
- Students gain knowledge within their expert groups which feeds into the home team problem. This knowledge could be gained by reading information and extracting key points or by solving a mini problem. Files can be created to document this information and will then be easily available for students to access (Padlet, Google Classroom, etc).
- After students have explored expert knowledge and documented it, they re-join the home team.
- Ask students to share or present their expert knowledge.
- Finally, they can use the combined expert knowledge to solve the original overall problem.

Jigsaw while engaging with learning from home

Use a video application like Zoom or Teams for this activity. Students can feed back to the group virtually rather than in the classroom. At the end of the session, you could finish with an online quiz (e.g. Kahoot) to consolidate the learning through their participation in this activity.

***Jigsaw can be used to support Teaching, Learning and Assessment in *all* subjects as well as the Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs) and the Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)**

Key Skills

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

Assessment

- Short quiz at the end to recap/summarise the learning
- Observation of group activity
- Questioning both individually and in groups throughout the activity

Inclusion of all Learners

- Allocation of roles to meet strengths/support needs
- Multi-modal and accessible - text, picture, audio
- Can highlight prior knowledge/area of interest within a topic
- Develops leadership qualities
- Peer support and tutoring
- Possible springboard for extension activities

Resources

- One to one digital devices with internet connection



Further Information

https://jct.ie/wholeschool/classroom_strategies

[L1LPs/L2LPs](#)

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