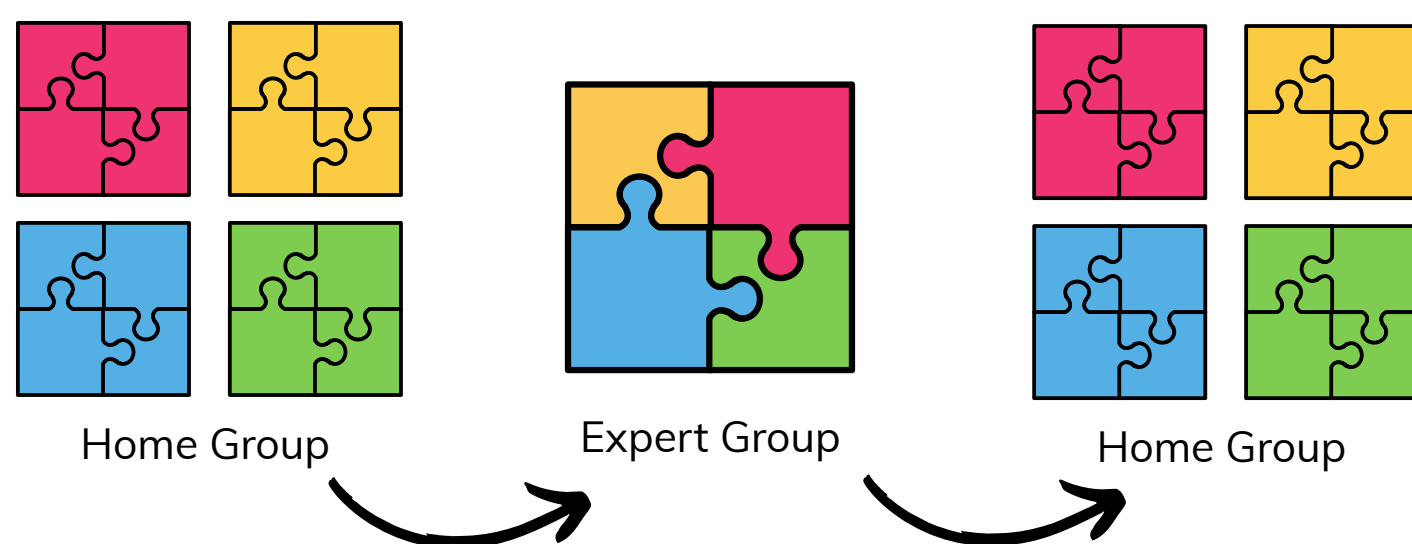


This is a **cooperative learning activity**. Students form a home group and are set a home group problem/task/question to research. They break up into 'expert groups' and gain expert knowledge that feeds into the overall problem. Just as in a **jigsaw puzzle**, each student's part is essential for the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

Instructions



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 group.



- Divide the class into groups of 4, 5 or 6 (depending on how many pieces you want in the jigsaw). This is the home group.
- Assign these roles: Recorder, Time Keeper, Reporter and Manager (or other as relevant).
- Clarify the roles: 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.
- Present the home group 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 group problem. This knowledge could be gained through engaging with information and extracting key points or by solving a mini-problem.
- After students have gained expert knowledge, re-form the home group. Get students to share their expert knowledge. Finally, they use the expert knowledge to solve the overall problem or formulate an answer to the research question.

Tips



- Circulate 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. Manager roles can be supported by whispering an instruction on how to intervene, until they get the hang of it.
- Remind Time Keepers to focus on more than just the end time.
- 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.
- Allow time for discussion with students.
- At the end of the activity, choose a mode of assessment that helps students realise what they have learned through this cooperative learning experience.

Key Competencies

- Communicating effectively
- Working with others
- Being personally effective
- Critical and creative thinking
- Information processing
- Managing information and thinking
- Developing literacy and numeracy skills
- Developing digital literacy

Resources

- Outline of task/ problem or research question for Home groups
- Sources of information for Expert groups

Room Layout

- Groups of 4, 5 or 6 students
- 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
- Group presentation to class

Supporting Homework

- Homework can be informed by the thinking of the group.
- Recorders can share the notes at the end of the group discussions.