**WHAT IS IT?**

The Jigsaw technique is designed for cooperative learning in small groups. Students are provided the opportunity to become “experts” in a particular subject, and share that knowledge with their peers. This technique promotes both self and peer teaching which requires students to understand the material at a deeper level and engage in discussion, problem solving, and learning.

**WHY USE IT?**

The Jigsaw technique can help students to:

- develop expertise in a concept, topic or principle,
- apply the language of the discipline, and
- practice self and peer teaching.

**HOW DO I DO IT?**

1. **Breakout into groups:**
   - Ask students to make small groups and allocate each one a number (i.e. 1, 2, 3). This is their **home group**.
   - Ask students to find others with the same number as them and create a separate group. This is their **expert group**.
   - Assign each expert group a concept, framework or theory to master. As a group, they should determine a way to explain their piece of the puzzle to others.

2. **Report back to home group:**
   - Ask students to explain their piece of the puzzle, ensuring that all their home group members understand the material.

3. **Discuss with home group:**
   - Ask students to connect the various pieces and put together the whole jigsaw, so that students are able to see where each part fits into the bigger picture.

**ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

- Suited to:  
  - Flat floor
  - Small classes
  - Large classes

- Activity time approximately runs for 20–30 minutes
WHAT COULD I USE?

- Butchers paper / sticky notes / whiteboards
- Pens / markers / pencils (different colours)

Digital tools are useful to capture and manage student responses and can be particularly useful for large classes.

- Padlet is a virtual "wall" where students can post their answers the whole class to see. Teachers can then collate answers for discussion, clarification and future review.

See also:
In-class Active Learning Tools (UQ)

WHAT IF I NEED SUPPORT?

- ITaLI TeachAssist for support curriculum design, evaluation and analytics
- eLearning Solutions Service customised support
- eLearning A-Z guide for UQ eLearning tools
- UQ Library teaching support offers tailored services and hosts Lynda.com (free online software training)
- UQ staff development for curriculum development support

WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

- Jigsaw - TeachLikeThis [video 5:46]
- Jigsaw - Goalbook Toolkit
- How to Build a Better Educational System: Jigsaw Classrooms - American Psychological