

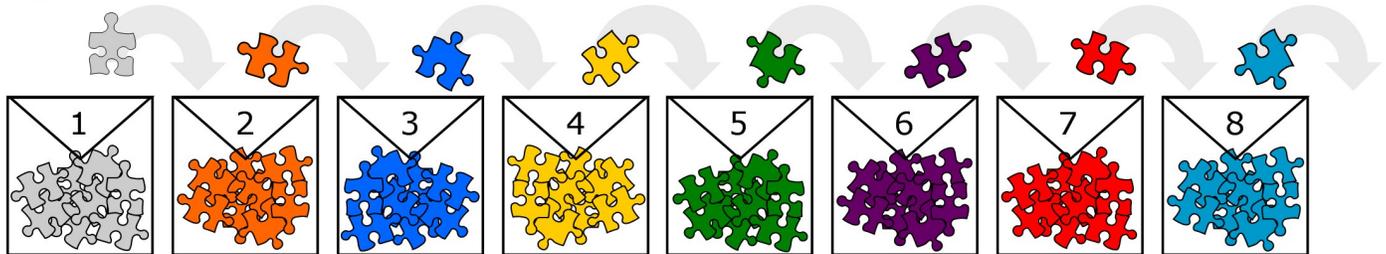
The Big Picture by Jim Ed Hardaway

Materials. Several 50-piece children’s jigsaw puzzles. They come in small boxes in themes like Disney™, Hot Wheels™, Spider-man™, etc, and can be found at most dollar stores. **NOTE: It’s important to make sure that the puzzles are all comparable in piece size and count.**

Prep. This element requires preparation beforehand. It’s important to know the estimated group size in advance, or at least do a headcount at the beginning and then prep the element in a separate room where nobody can see. Let’s say you have 40 people in your group. You will be dividing the group into multiple teams with about 5 in each. So, that means you’ll use 8 different (no two puzzle pictures the same) jigsaw puzzles in this scenario.

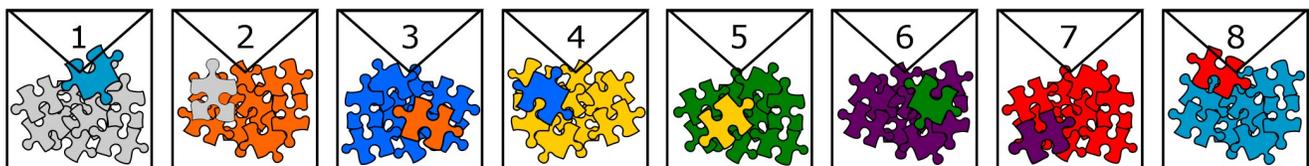
1. Open each puzzle box and empty the pieces into separate white envelopes. Set the box aside for storage after the element is done. **NOTE: Don’t let the group see the pictures on the boxes.**
2. Lay all the envelopes out in a row. Remove 1 piece from each envelope and put it in the immediate envelope to the right (Envelope 8’s piece will be put in Envelope 1)(See Figure A).

Figure A



3. When you distribute the envelopes to the teams for the element, each puzzle should contain 1 piece from a different puzzle (See Figure B). Seal the envelopes.

Figure B



Instructions. Divide the group into multiple teams with no more than 5-6 people in each. You will use the same amount of jigsaw puzzles as you have teams. **EXAMPLE: 8 teams, 8 different puzzles.** Have each team gather around a table and pass out one envelope to each team. They won’t be able to see the contents. Don’t give them any instructions except to wait until you say “go” to begin, and that “the first team that finishes wins”. They will figure it out.

When you start they will scramble to open their envelopes. Once they see the contents they will begin solving the puzzle. At some point they will discover that they have the one wrong piece in the mix. **NOTE: It’s important not to say anything about it if they ask you.** Just smile and say,

“Think about it.” They will figure out that their missing piece is probably mixed in with the other teams, and they’ll try to find it. It’s usually fun to award first, second, and third place winners so that more groups have a sense of accomplishment. Then process the element by asking the group the following questions (**See Low Ropes Essentials:** http://www.epictrek.com/Epictrek/VarietyTray_files/LowRopesEssentials_epictrek.com.pdf):

Processing the element:

1. **What factors made this element difficult to accomplish?**

Possible Responses: Didn’t know what to expect. No instructions. No picture to reference.

2. **How did you respond when you discovered there was 1 piece that didn’t belong?**

3. **What steps did you take to correct it?**

4. **Did having multiple people involved help or hinder the outcome?**

Possible Responses: Teamwork. Communication. Problem solving. Focus.

5. **Did anyone in your group take a leadership role?**

Use these questions to drive home the point of how important seeing “The Big Picture” is, and how unity, good communication, and proactive problem-solving can lead to success.