Find-Your-Partner Puzzle Match Set

Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® Find-Your-Partner Puzzle Match Set—a quick, random, and fun resource to assign partners throughout the year.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
- 32 Puzzle Match Pieces
- Storage Bag
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Assembling and Displaying the Find-Your-Partner Puzzle Match Set

Before introducing the Find-Your-Partner Puzzle Match Set, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide, cut apart the reproducibles, and file the pages for future use. Or, download another copy of it from our Web site at www.reallygoodstuff.com. Separate the Puzzle Pieces, and place them in the Storage Bag until you are ready to use them.

Introducing the Find-Your-Partner Puzzle Match Set

Choose three Puzzle Match Pairs, and place them picture-side down on a table. Tell students that they are sometimes going to do work as a whole class, in small groups, as individuals, and with partners. Explain that you have a fun way to decide who works as partners and who works in groups for activities during the year.

Discuss how it’s fun to see how puzzles fit together to make a match. Explain that you are going to choose students to pick Puzzle Pieces from the table to find their partner match. Have six students choose Puzzle Pieces, and show them how to find each match by looking at the animal pictures, then show how the shapes fit together. Indicate that when they are finding partners, there are many animal matches so everyone will find a partner.

Distribute the Puzzle Pieces in different ways:

1. Assigning Partners
   - Choose the appropriate number of Puzzle Match Pairs, and place them in a basket for students to draw from.
   - Place the Puzzle Pieces picture-side down on a table and allow students to choose.
   - Place one Puzzle Piece picture-side down on each student’s desk or table.
   - Distribute matching Puzzle Pieces to specific students to create partnerships of your choice.

2. Assigning Groups
   - Distribute Puzzle Pieces and call out background colors of matching animals to form cooperative groups of four students:
     - yellow/green matches (lamb/bear)
     - blue/red matches (bug/mouse)
     - blue/yellow matches (sea horse/jellyfish)
     - green/purple matches (seal/dog)
     - purple/blue matches (rooster/jellyfish)
     - orange/blue matches (fish/parrot)
     - green/red matches (cat/ox)
     - orange/red matches (penguin/chick)
   - Distribute matching Puzzle Pieces to specific students to create groups of your choice.

Partner-Finding Practice

Pass out the Puzzle Match Pairs so that each student gets one Puzzle Piece. If you have an odd number of students, have two students share a Puzzle Piece for this activity. Instruct the students to find their match. Once they find their match, indicate that they are to connect the Puzzle Pieces and sit down by their partner. After all are seated, congratulate them for finding their partners! For younger students, you may decide to add some extra rules to make the process go more smoothly, such as remind students to use inside voices, use kind words, and remember to walk for this activity. You may also want to add a time element; for instance, students are to find their match before you can say the alphabet or before you finish singing a particular song.

Materials Matchup

Use the Find-Your-Partner Puzzle Match Set to help decide who gets to distribute required supplies and who gets to put them away for classroom activities: Once students have found their puzzle partners, indicate that the students who have the Puzzle Pieces on the left get the supplies. Let everyone know that when they have completed the lesson or activity, the students who have Puzzle Pieces on the right are to put the materials away.

Beginning-of-the-Year Icebreaker Activity

Use the Puzzle Match Pairs to encourage students to spend time getting to know their classmates:

1. Copy and distribute the Partner Puzzle Reproducible.
2. Give students guided questions to help them stay focused and get to know each other, such as when is your birthday, what is your favorite color, what do you like to do during the summer, do you have any pets, and what is something special about you.
3. Have each student write his or her name on the left-hand puzzle piece image on the reproducible. Have each partner write his or her name on the right-hand side. This will help students to see which students they still need to get to know.
4. Rotate partners until all students have had the opportunity to meet each other.

Partner and Group Assessment

Copy and distribute either the Partner Puzzle Reproducible or the Group Puzzle Reproducible to partners or groups as they work on lessons together. Instruct students to write or draw information on the Puzzle Pieces from their lessons. A few suggestions are:

- For a partner lesson: Each student gets a side. Have students write or draw their answers to lesson-related questions on the reproducible. For example, if you are studying the components of a story, one partner might draw a picture to show the characters in a story on one puzzle piece, and the other partner might draw the setting on the other puzzle piece. Collect the reproducibles to assess students’ work.
- For a group lesson: Have each student write or draw information for lesson-related questions on one puzzle piece. For example, if the group is to identify objects in the classroom that start with the letter p, each group member is to draw one or more objects in his or her puzzle piece. Collect the reproducibles to assess students’ work.

All activity guides can be found online:

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Partner Puzzle Reproducible

Our Partner Activity: ____________________________________________________________

Partner 1: ___________________________ Partner 2: ________________________________

Group Puzzle Reproducible

Our Group Activity: _____________________________________________________________

Member 1: ___________________________________________________________________
Member 2: ___________________________________________________________________
Member 3: ___________________________________________________________________
Member 4: ___________________________________________________________________