

SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

Simple instructional strategies that incorporate digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

JIGSAW



Jigsaw is a well-known, cooperative learning strategy that empowers students from a home group to focus on one aspect of a topic. “Just as in a jigsaw puzzle, each piece--each student's part--is essential for the completion and full understanding of the final product. If each student's part is essential, then each student is essential, and that is precisely what makes this strategy so effective.” (Jigsaw Classroom, Aronson) Using resources compiled into the Favorites folder in Discovery Education, students work with their peers — who have identical assignments in different groups — to research and become experts in their topic before bringing the information back to their home group.



Materials: media (possibly compiled in content folders in Discovery Education), electronic notepads and/or paper and writing utensils

1. Organize your media into Favorites folders for each *jigsaw* piece (e.g 13 colonies, New England colonies, Middle colonies, and Southern colonies).
2. Assign those content folders to students and organize the students into appropriate groups. (You may want to have students count off numbers for grouping, based on the number of pieces in your assignment.)
3. Have students work with students that have the same assignment (i.e. Southern colonies) to learn about their part of the jigsaw puzzle and take notes, together. Students should identify 3-5 important facts they can relate back to their home group of students. They can look at images, watch videos, or listen to audio clips from their assigned folders.
4. Have students return to their original groups to share out the information they learned and get the pieces of information their peers learned.
5. When the activity is complete, all students will have information on all parts of the assignments and be ready for a classroom discussion.

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This is an effective strategy for covering a lot of material in a shorter amount of time. It gets students using the 4 Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity.



- Once students have completed all parts of the jigsaw and have all the information they need, take it a step further and have them complete a more complex project. They could engage in digital storytelling, create a Paper Slide video, or complete a traditional writing assignment.