

PUZZLE DAY



2026



JANUARY 29

**ACTIVITY SHEETS
WORD GAMES
PUZZLE CHALLENGES
FUN FACTS**



CREATED BY JODI JILL,
FOUNDER OF PUZZLE DAY

PuzzleDayFun.com
#PuzzleDay

CELEBRATING YEARS OF PUZZLE FUN!



Amazing Puzzle Facts!

Puzzles make the world more interesting. They challenge your brain and bring people together. Every puzzle has a story to tell. Check out these amazing facts about puzzles!



Did you know Jodi Jill (yes, a real person) founded Puzzle Day on January 29 and Puzzle Month? Wow! She must love puzzles. Every January people all over the world celebrate puzzles by playing and solving their favorites.



Did you know the first jigsaw puzzle was made in the 1760s by a London mapmaker named John Spilsbury? He cut up maps to help children learn geography. That is how the jigsaw puzzle was born.



Did you know the first crossword puzzle appeared in the *New York World* newspaper on December 21, 1918? Arthur Wynne created it and it became one of the most popular puzzles ever printed.



Did you know Puzzle Month happens every January? For the whole month people celebrate and share puzzles for fun. It is the perfect time to play and share puzzles with friends and family.



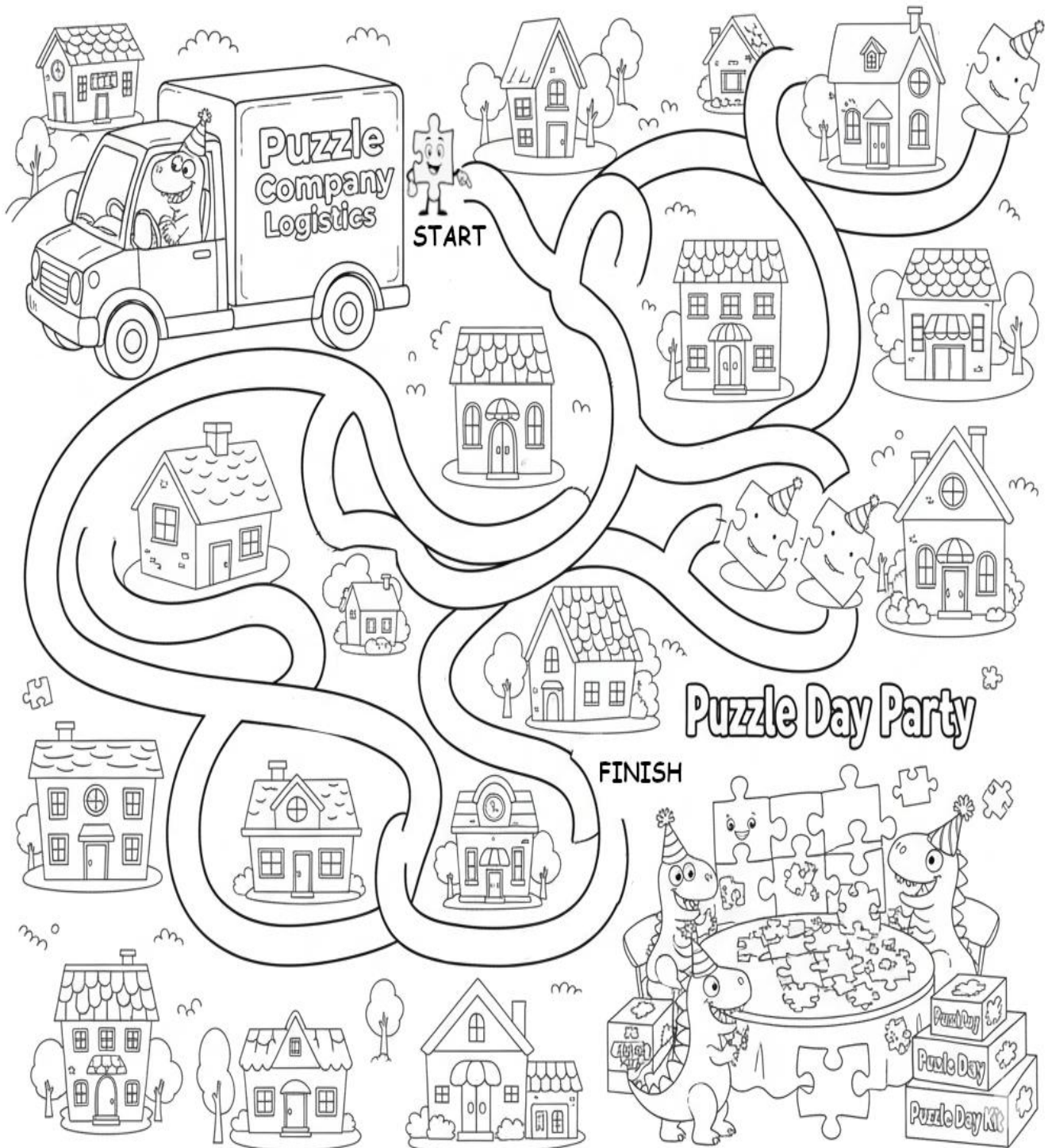
Did you know the idea of playing a puzzle has been around for centuries? People have enjoyed puzzle play for a very long time in many different ways



Did you know there are puzzle competitions? Speed puzzling events test how fast people can finish jigsaws. The fastest teams can complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle in less than 40 minutes.

Help the Puzzle Truck Deliver the Fun!

Help the Puzzle Truck deliver the pieces before the party!



What is a Puzzle?

A **puzzle** is a game, problem, or toy that tests a person's ingenuity or knowledge. In a **puzzle**, the solver is expected to put pieces together, in a logical way or in a particular order to arrive at the correct solution.

Types of Puzzles

Word Puzzles: Puzzles that use language to challenge the solver.

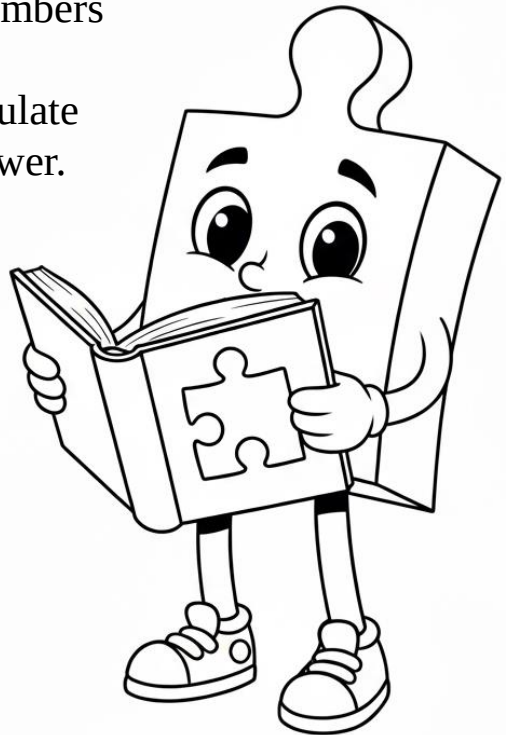
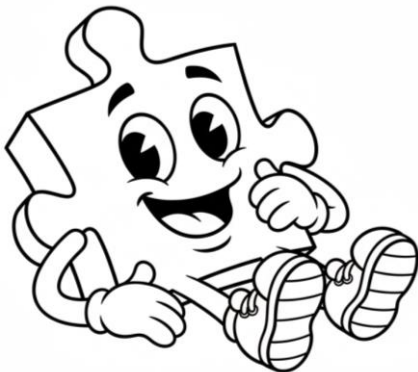
Logic Puzzles: Puzzles that can be solved by thinking and using deductive reasoning.

Number Puzzles: Puzzles that require numbers to complete.

Mechanical Puzzles: Puzzles that manipulate a whole object or parts of it to get an answer.

Escape Rooms: Locked areas where you must solve a series of puzzles to get out.

Informational Puzzles: Puzzles that test subject knowledge based on facts.



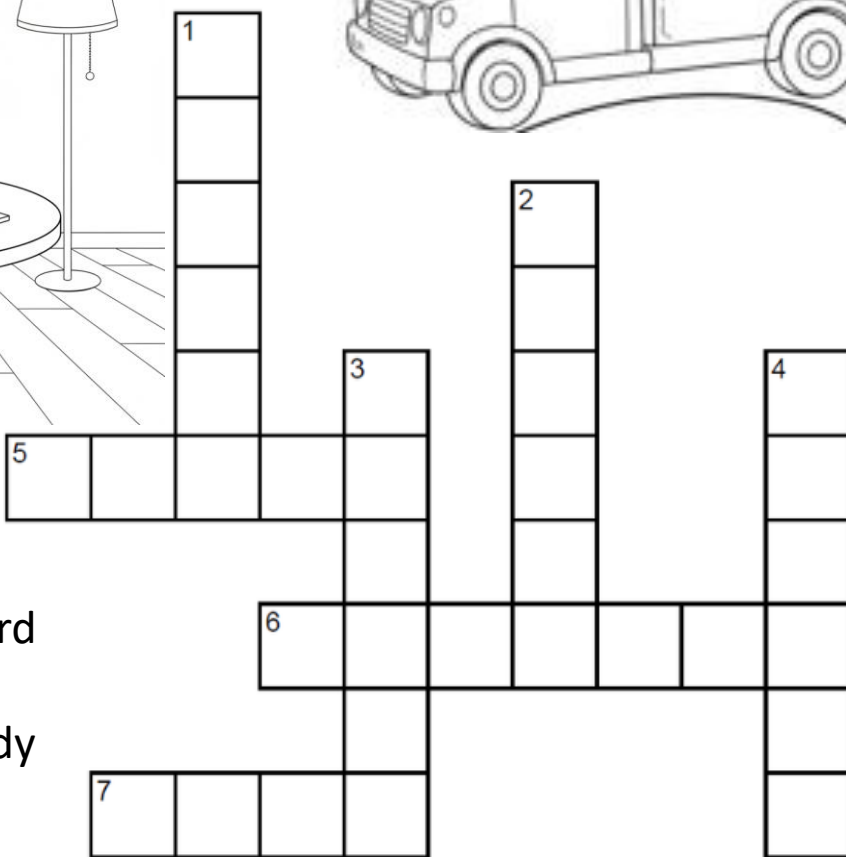
Which Puzzles do you Like to Play?

“Every puzzle is designed to entertain the solver. Every puzzle maker must offer a well-defined solution along with plenty of fun.”

- Jodi Jill, Founder Puzzle Day

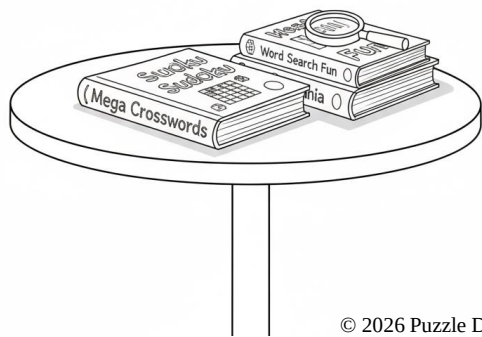
Puzzle Day Crossword Puzzle

Use the Clues to Solve the Crossword Puzzle below!



ACROSS

5. Term used after you complete a puzzle
6. People you play board games with
7. Class where you study numbers



DOWN

1. Instrument used to play word games
2. A fun question with a curious answer
3. The action of looking for something
4. Puzzle made from of cardboard pieces

Agamograph Fun

An Optical Illusion Puzzle

Directions!

1. Color the Pictures

See the lines on your paper? Each strip of illustration belongs to one of two pictures. Use your crayons or markers to color each picture. Try to stay in the lines and use bright colors!

2. Fold the Paper

Fold the paper on each line, back and forth, like a fan or accordion. Press down each fold so it's nice and flat.

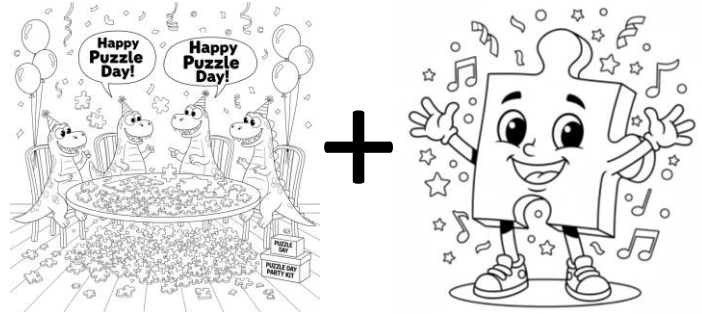
3. Stand It Up

When you're done folding, stand your paper up on the table like a zigzag.

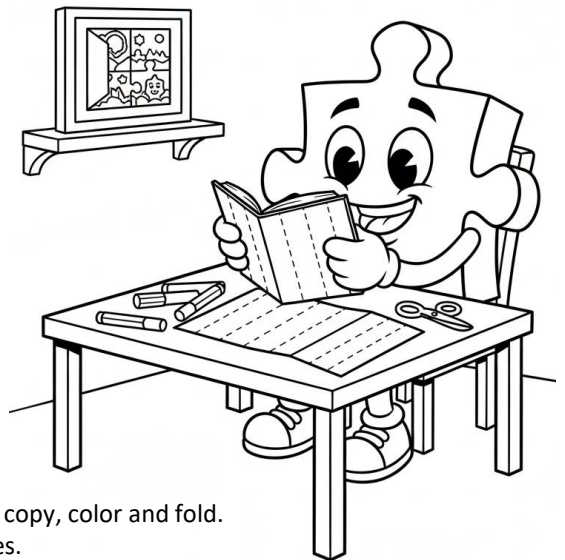
4. See the Optical Puzzle!

Look at your Agamograph from the **left side**: you'll see one picture.

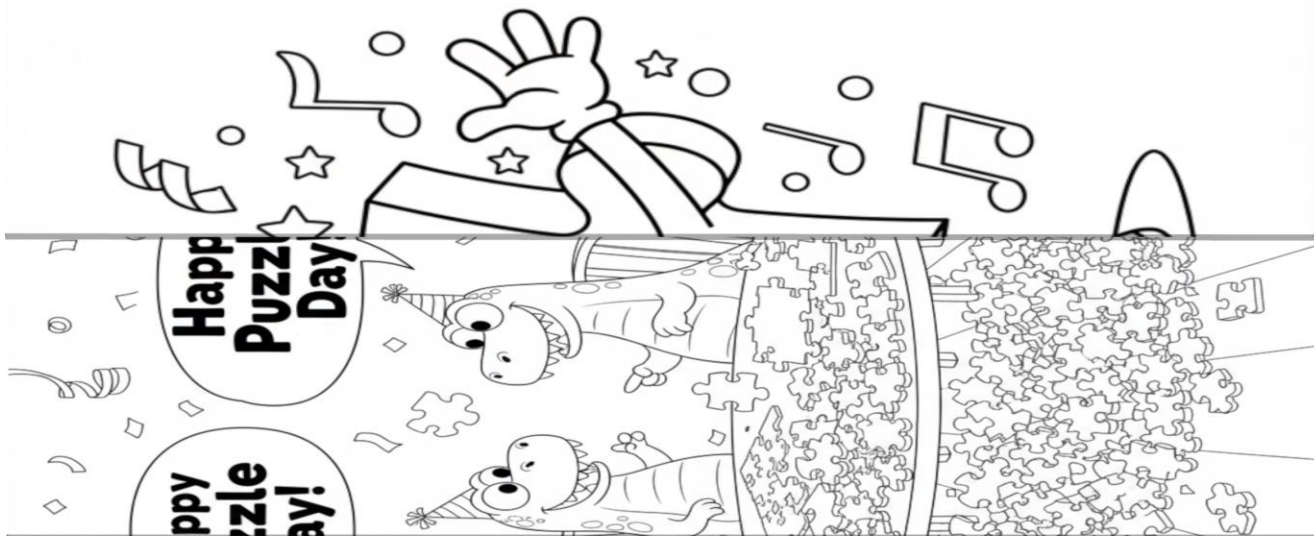
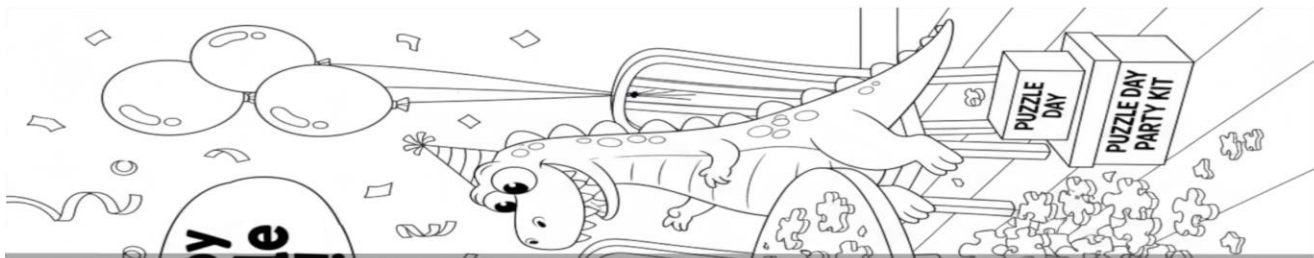
Look from the **right side**: you'll see a different picture!



=



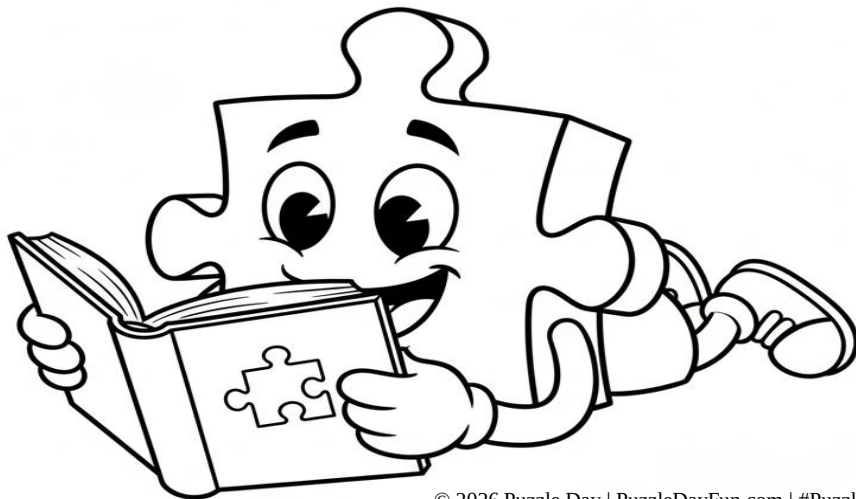
FYI: You do not need to cut the agamograph, just copy, color and fold.
You should see 2 distinct images.



ALPHABET SUDOKU

Solve the Sudoku puzzle using the alphabet. Only the letters A, B, C and D! Each letter can only be used once per line. Good Luck!

C			D
			C
	A		B
B			



Fill in the Blank

Puzzles are a very interesting part of our lives. Fill in the blanks to share how you feel about puzzles!



1. My favorite puzzle to play is _____

2. If I made a puzzle for my family, it would be:

3. A fun afternoon is playing a jigsaw puzzle with friends.
What is the perfect number of jigsaw pieces to enjoy? _____

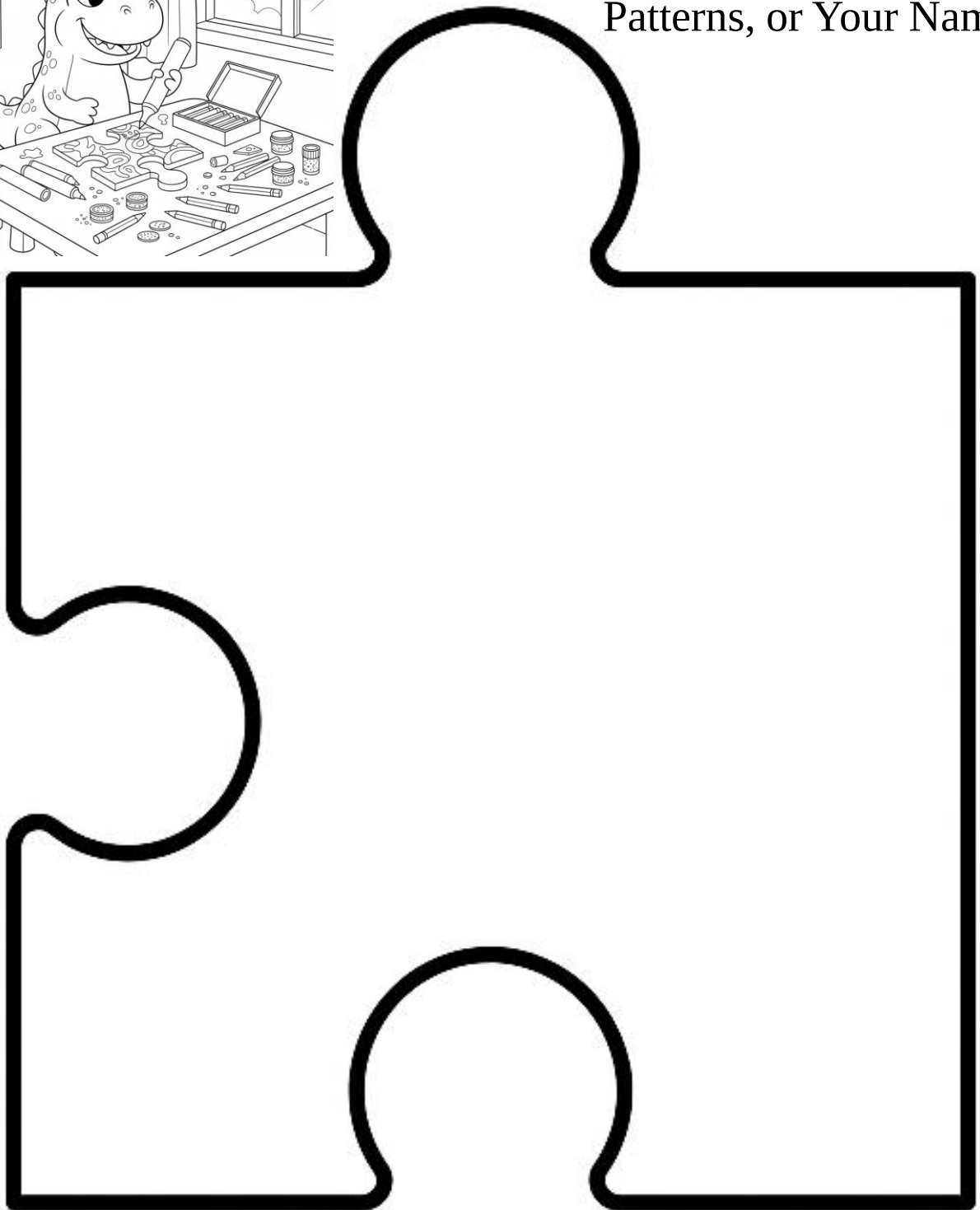
4. What is the most exciting puzzle you've ever done? Why?

5. What is the most boring puzzle you've ever done? And why?

•6. Have you heard of speed jigsaw competitions? People compete for a prize to see who can solve a jigsaw puzzle the fastest. What puzzle can you solve quickly?

Design Your Own Puzzle Piece

Draw Your Favorite Puzzle Picture
Inside the Piece. Add Colors,
Patterns, or Your Name!



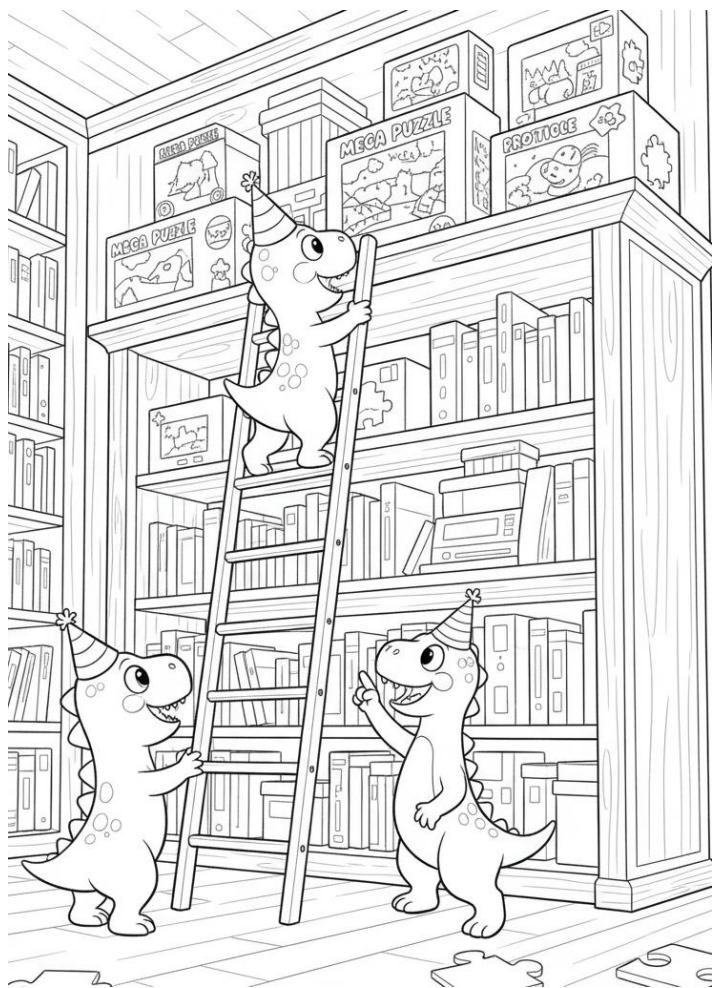
Puzzle Writing Essay

Puzzles are everywhere! In this fun writing assignment, share your favorite puzzle and give three examples why your friends should play too! Don't forget to explain the directions of the puzzle, the best way to play and why you enjoy it so much!



WHAT PUZZLES MEAN TO ME...

Playfully
Unique
Zany
Zippy
Leisure
Endeavors
Solved



WHAT DO PUZZLES MEAN TO YOU?

Play a Word Search Puzzle With Your Friends

How will you play today? The best way to celebrate Puzzle Day is with friends!
In this Friends Word Search Puzzle, the words describing your friends appear
UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word!

CHARM
CLUB
DEPEND
EASE
EMBRACE
GENTLE
GREET
HARMONY
HELP
HUG
KIND
LAUGH
LIKE
LISTEN
LOVE
LOYAL
NICE
PALS
PARTY
SECRETS
SHARE
TIME
TRUST
VALUE
WARMTH

D	A	S	S	M	V	W	H	Z	C	D	C	W	C
N	N	L	H	C	C	A	Y	I	Y	E	A	G	T
X	A	E	Z	A	R	G	L	L	O	V	E	E	E
P	D	D	P	M	R	H	G	U	A	L	C	N	E
L	H	N	O	E	C	E	W	S	E	H	E	T	R
E	M	N	I	P	D	V	E	U	A	Y	F	L	G
H	Y	I	E	K	T	C	G	R	G	H	M	E	E
P	A	B	U	A	R	B	M	J	T	L	N	M	X
Y	R	Y	R	E	S	I	N	M	A	E	B	W	C
V	J	F	T	T	V	E	R	Y	Y	R	M	Y	Q
S	C	S	S	M	T	A	O	Z	A	T	K	I	H
E	C	U	Y	S	W	L	N	C	H	Z	R	U	T
M	R	I	I	F	F	X	E	K	I	L	G	A	A
T	O	L	H	N	I	C	E	M	B	U	L	C	P



CRYPTOGRAM PUZZLE

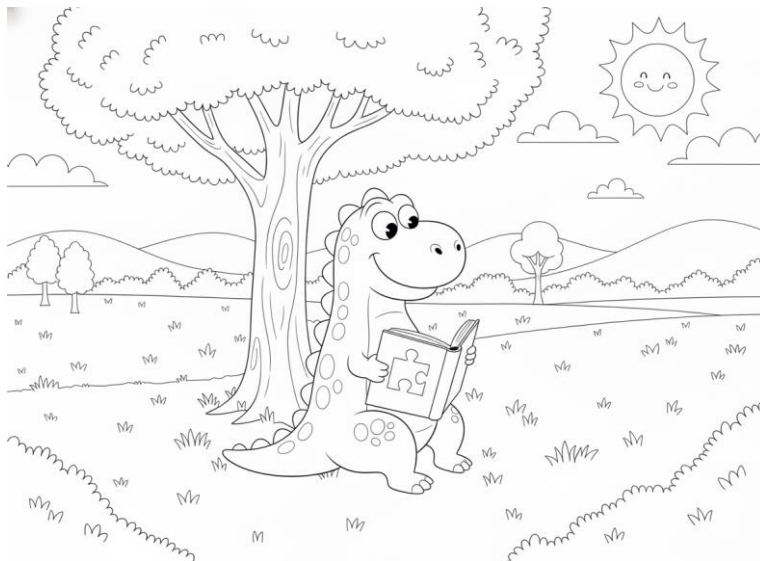
By using the cipher code, you will be able to decrypt the message.
One letter will be substituted through the puzzle for another letter.
As you figure out the correct letters, the words will be easier to solve.
Solving cryptogram puzzles requires you to use your brain.
This type of puzzle is called a logic puzzle.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

		A				L	L					L	A	
E	P	I	B	E	Q	T	T	G	W	C	X	T	I	G

			A				A	L		Z	Z	L		
W	V	V	I	B	Q	W	V	I	T	X	C	H	T	M

	A	
L	I	G



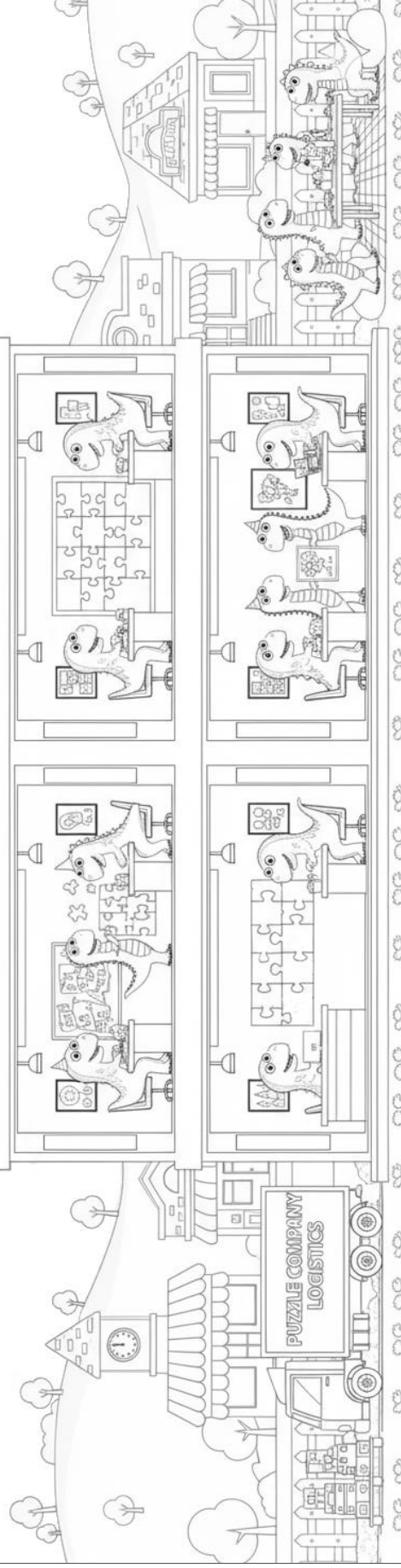
Do you like Cryptogram Puzzles?
It's a fun way to you give your brain a workout!

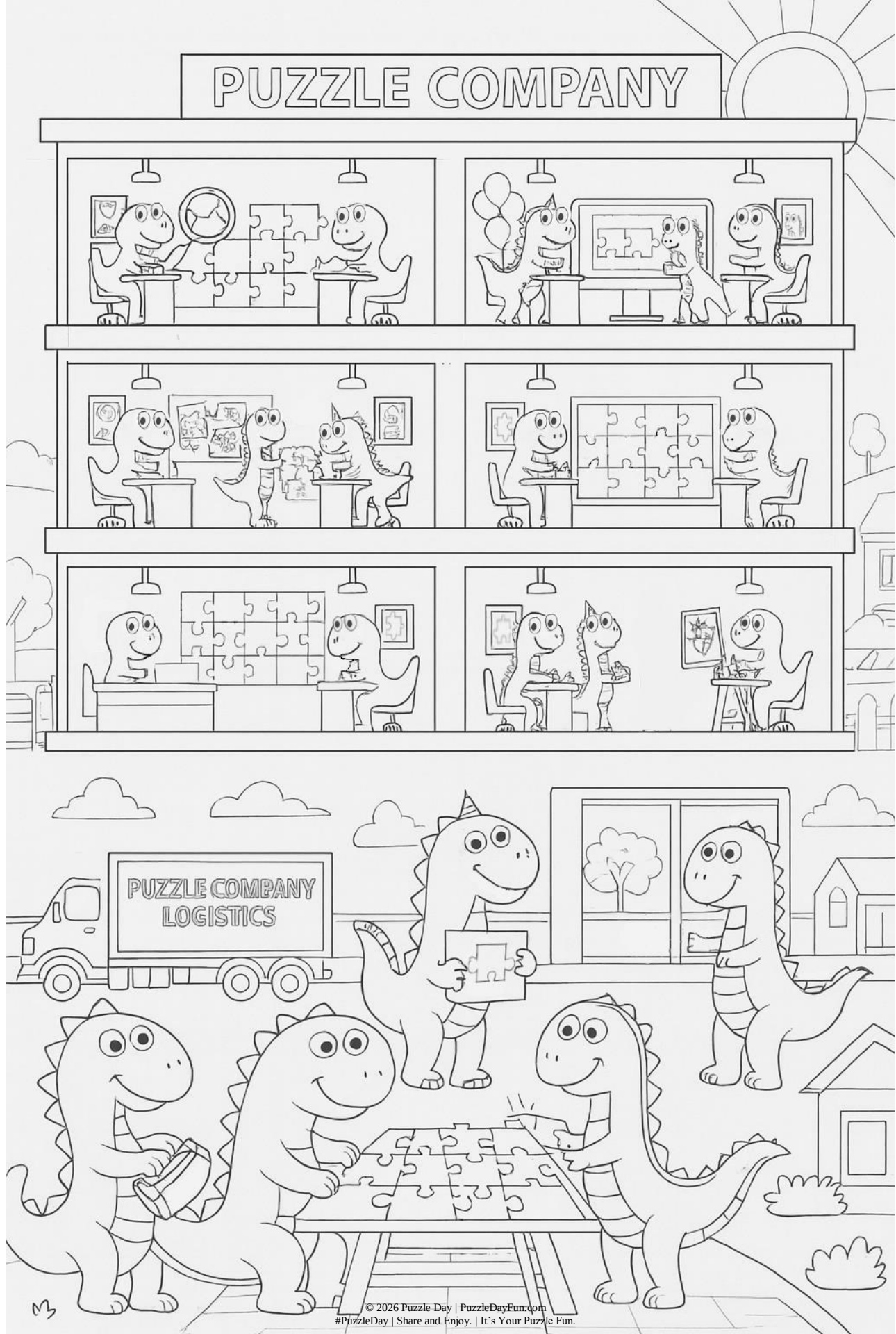
FIND THE HIDDEN PUZZLE PIECES

Circle or color each jigsaw puzzle piece you find.



PUZZLE COMPANY





HAPPY PUZZLE DAY!



PUZZLE COMPANY FUN

COLORING PAGE

Puzzle Day Activity Kit

Teacher's Key



ANSWERS

(You Know You Want Them)

To Our Educators and Puzzle Leaders:

Thank you!

I really appreciate you taking the time to share the joy of puzzling with your students, families, and communities!

Your creativity and enthusiasm turn every printable puzzle, maze, and activity into a moment of learning and laughter for the children.

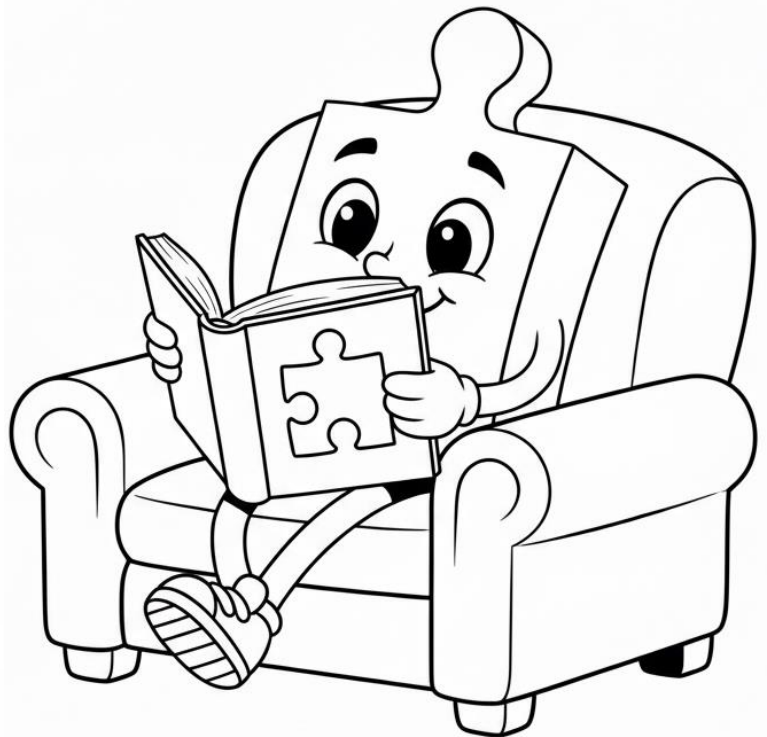
By making the time for puzzles in your classrooms, libraries, communities, and homes, you inspire curiosity, patience, and problem-solving skills that last a lifetime.

Puzzle Day wouldn't be possible without dedicated educators, parents, and caring adults like you. Each time you print a puzzle, organize an activity, or cheer a child's "aha!" moment, you help keep the spirit of puzzling alive. Your support brings people together and reminds us that play, learning, and imagination are all connected.

Happy Puzzle Day and Enjoy Puzzle Month!

Yours,

Jodi Jill, Founder
Puzzle Day and Puzzle Month
PuzzleDayFun.com



Puzzle Day Discussion & Reflection Questions

Encourage critical thinking, creativity, and connection while puzzling!



1. What do you learn about yourself when solving a puzzle?

Follow-up: Do you notice if you like working fast or taking your time?

Ask: What does that tell you about how you handle challenges in real life?

Extension: Have students create a “Puzzle Profile” describing their strengths (focus, patience, teamwork, creativity).

2. How does teamwork change the way you solve challenges?

Follow-up: What happens when everyone has a different idea about the next piece or word?

Ask: How do you decide which idea to try first?

Extension: Have pairs or small groups solve the same puzzle separately—then discuss how their strategies differed.

3. What skills do puzzles and school subjects share?

Follow-up: Can you think of a time a math, reading, or science skill helped you solve a puzzle?

Ask: How could puzzles be used to learn something new in class?

Extension: Connect puzzles to STEAM subjects. Such as pattern recognition in math, storytelling in language arts, or problem-solving in coding.

4. How do you feel when you almost solve something, but not quite?

Follow-up: What do you do when you’re stuck? Take a break, ask for help, or try again?

Ask: How can that same persistence help you outside of puzzles?

Extension: Have students share examples of when perseverance paid off. Inside or outside the classroom.

5. What can puzzles teach us about trying again?

Follow-up: Why do you think puzzles don’t always have an easy solution?

Ask: How can solving puzzles help build patience and focus?

Extension: Create a “Try Again Wall” where students post encouraging messages or share stories about a puzzle they didn’t give up on.

6. What kinds of puzzles do you like most? Why?

Follow-up: Is it because they’re quick to finish, colorful, or full of mystery?

Ask: What do your favorites say about the way your brain likes to think?

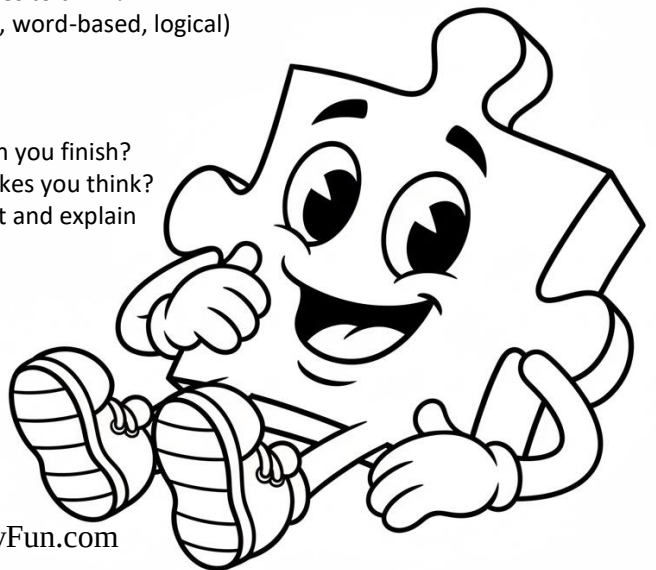
Extension: Have students sort puzzles into categories (visual, word-based, logical) and reflect on which type feels most rewarding.

7. What makes a puzzle fun?

Follow-up: Is it the challenge, the design, or the feeling when you finish?

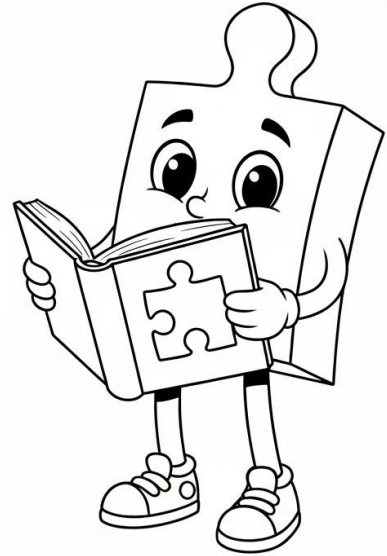
Ask: Do you prefer a puzzle that’s easy or one that really makes you think?

Extension: Have students rate different puzzles in the packet and explain their choices in a mini review.



Expanding the Puzzle Experience

Encourage exploration, creativity, and real-world connections! These ideas help teachers and leaders extend the lessons behind each puzzle—turning problem-solving into teamwork, art, writing, and discovery.



1. Create a Classroom Puzzle Museum. Invite students to bring in or draw a favorite puzzle. Have them write a short “museum card” explaining what kind of puzzle it is, what it teaches, and why they enjoy it.

Variation: Include puzzles from around the world: crosswords from different languages, tangrams, or rebus puzzles.

2. Design a “Puzzle of Me” Collage. Give each student a blank puzzle piece outline (from the “Design Your Own Puzzle Piece” page). Inside, they draw symbols, words, and colors that represent who they are. Assemble all the pieces on a bulletin board labeled “We Fit Together.”

3. Puzzle Lab: Build Your Own Brain Teaser. Challenge students to design a mini puzzle like a riddle, maze, code, or matching game. Pair it with an explanation of how to solve it. Display their creations during a Puzzle Fair or classroom showcase.

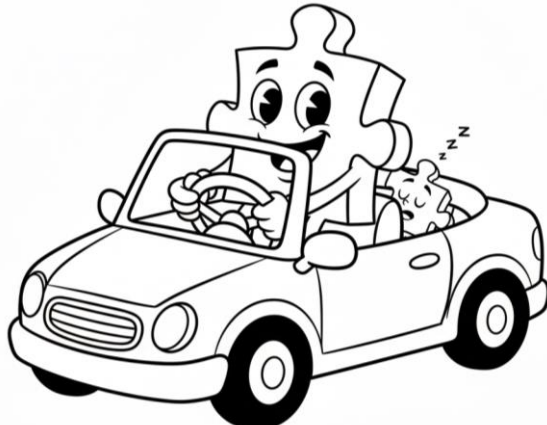
4. Speed Puzzle Challenge. Use jigsaw puzzles, word searches, or mazes and time small groups to see who completes theirs first. Afterward, talk about strategy and teamwork rather than just speed.

Variation: Have groups design their own timed puzzle for others to try.

5. The Great Puzzle Experiment. Ask: Do people solve better alone or in teams? Divide into two groups, individual or team solvers, and record times or observations. Discuss results and what they reveal about collaboration and focus.

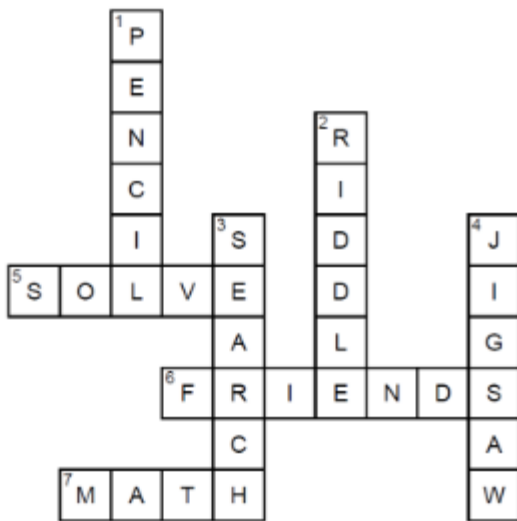
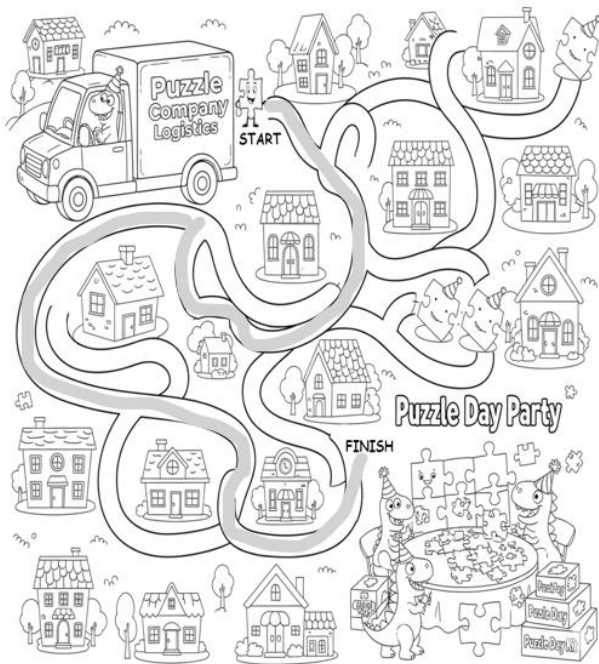
6. Puzzle Day Celebration Booths End the unit with a school or library Puzzle Day Showcase. Each group hosts a puzzle table that fits their interest: “Riddle Stop,” “Word Search Station,” “Optical Illusion Corner,” or “Puzzle Art Gallery.”

Variation: Perfect for Puzzle Month too.



Help the Puzzle Truck Deliver the Fun!

Help the Puzzle Truck deliver the pieces before the party!



C	B	A	D
A	D	B	C
D	A	C	B
B	C	D	A

GAJIWS JIGSAW

WROD WHESEL WORD WHEELS

OONDWE WOODEN

ORWD CEHARS WORD SEARCH

OWRSDCRSO CROSSWORD

SAMZE MAZES

SRAAGAMN ANAGRAMS

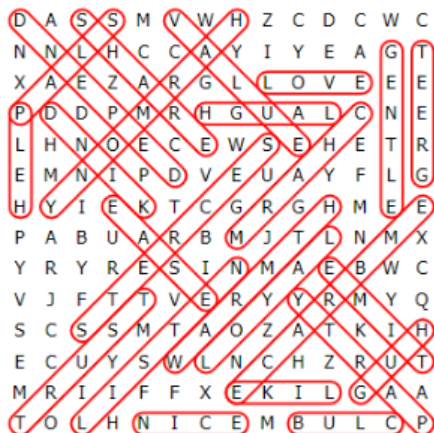
OCIGL LOGIC

AMIACCENHL MECHANICAL

TPCCRYI CRYPTIC

IVIRAT TRIVIA

LSERDDI RIDDLES



FIND THE HIDDEN PUZZLE PIECES

Circle or color each jigsaw puzzle piece you find.

