

From Text Maps to Memory Caps

**100 More
Ways to
Differentiate
Instruction
in K-12
Inclusive
Classrooms**

by

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and

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About the Authors

Paula Kluth, Ph.D., is a former special educator who has served as a general education co-teacher, inclusion facilitator, and instructional coach. Her professional interests include differentiating instruction, active learning, and inclusive schooling.

Dr. Kluth is the author or coauthor of eleven books including: *“You’re Going to Love This Kid!”: Teaching Students with Autism in Inclusive Classrooms, Second Edition*; *“A Land We Can Share”: Teaching Literacy to Students with Autism*; and *“Just Give Him the Whale”: 20 Ways to Use Fascinations, Areas of Expertise, and Strengths to Support Students with Autism*. Paula is also a director of a documentary film titled *“We Thought You’d Never Ask”: Voices of People with Autism*.

Sheila Danaher, M.S.Ed., is a consultant for the Christopher L. & M. Susan Gust Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting all students by creating inclusive school communities. She is a former learning specialist and administrator in the Chicago Public Schools, where she focused on supporting students with autism and differentiating instruction for all students. As a consultant, for the Gust Foundation, Sheila continues her work in the Chicago area by providing teachers with ideas for curricular adaptations, differentiating instruction, and implementing the best strategies for supporting students with disabilities in preschool, elementary, and secondary school settings.

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Purposeful Puzzles



Materials

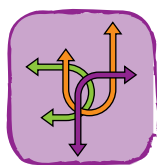
- Blank puzzle
- Colored pencils or markers



Description

Purposeful puzzles are so named because they are a first and foremost a fun activity, but they can also be put into classrooms to serve a specific purpose or teach a particular piece of content.

Puzzles are an especially helpful support for students who might fidget a lot during class or need to be “doing something” when they are listening or participating in a classroom discussion. Some students doodle to meet this need, but others may appreciate a support that directly helps them learn targeted content.



Directions

To get ideas for puzzles, look at content-area standards for information and ideas that students need to know and understand. You might also scan textbooks for important charts, diagrams, maps, descriptions, and images. Once you have found a puzzle idea, sketch your drawing lightly with a pencil on the blank puzzle page so that any errors can be changed easily. Then, color with markers or colored pencils to make the image easy to assemble. Be sure to add any important vocabulary words and facts.

Provide students with directions for how and when to use their puzzles. Encourage learners to share their finished products with classmates.



Example

A student with Down syndrome was sometimes fidgety during his social studies class. A teaching assistant on the middle school team created a series of standards-based puzzles that could double as desktop fidgets, be used as repeating homework assignments, and serve as study

guides for the most important ideas in a unit. The content on the puzzles was always complex, so any learner could use them to study and learn.



Reference

McDonald, E.S., & Hershman, D.M. (2010). *Classrooms that spark: Recharge and revive your teaching*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass.



Vendors

Puzzle Warehouse

<http://www.puzzlewarehouse.com>

You can order a 36-piece blank floor puzzle here, as well as a 99-piece tabletop jigsaw puzzle.

Puzzles for Sale

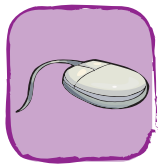
<http://www.puzzlesforsale.com>

Explore this site to find puzzles for all ages, of many different sizes, and for many different subject areas, including birds, folk art, the *Titanic*, and cities of the world.

Yoyo.com

<http://www.yoyo.com>

This web site offers 63-piece blank puzzles.



Web Site

Jigsaw Puzzles

<http://www.neok12.com/jigsaw-puzzles.htm>

This web site provides virtual jigsaw puzzles with many themes including the human eye, lasers, the French Revolution, and natural disasters.