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Description:

The jigsaw approach is a cooperative learning tool that breaks students up into small groups and each member of the group is responsible for a certain portion of the learning material. Each individual will then become the 'expert' in their content to share with their jigsaw group. Students may work with other students who are researching the same topic for their jigsaw group. After students have had time to learn about their topics, the jigsaw groups reconvene to present their information. Each person's presentation is essential for full understanding of the topic.

Uses:

Jigsaw can be used for concept development, discussion, group projects and mastery.

Materials:

Flipcharts to record issues and ideas for solutions.

Instructions:

Divide students in groups of 4-6 people. Divide the learning material into 4-6 segments, and assign each student a segment. Have students form expert groups with other students with the same segment. Allow time for discussion in these expert groups as well as time to work on their presentation material. Students will go back to their jigsaw groups to present their segment. You might want to follow up with a short quiz or another assessment tool so that students are aware of the importance of listening and presenting their segments.

Tips:

Students with low study skills will be successful during this strategy because of the expert groups.

References:

Kagan, S. (1990). *Cooperative Learning: Resources for Teachers*. San Juan Capistrano, CA: Resources for Teachers.

www.jigsaw.org