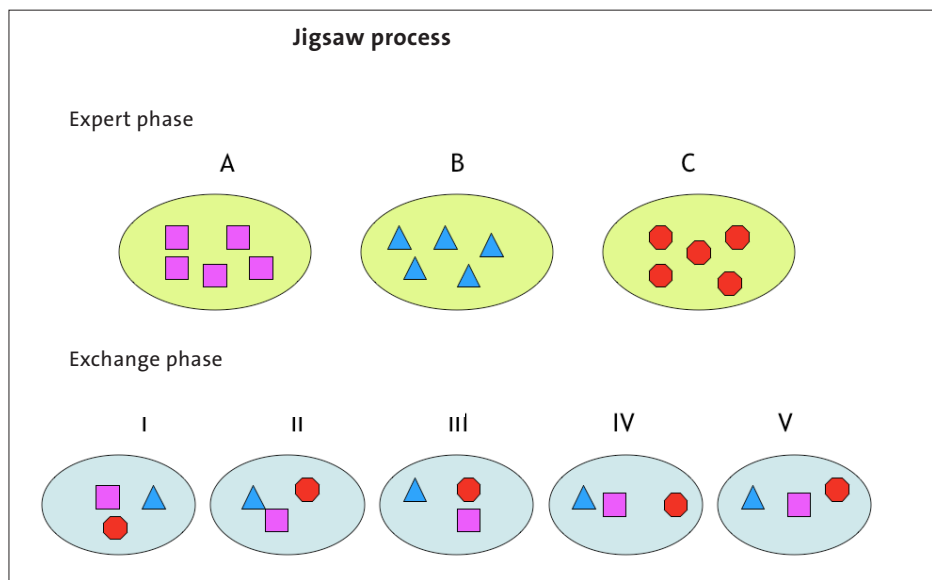


A-Z University Teaching & Learning

Jigsaw technique

The jigsaw technique (also known as Group Puzzle) is a cooperative teaching method in which learners also act as teachers.



During the "**expert phase**," groups work independently on a topic and learn the relevant subject matter (naturally this involves some self-directed learning in the form of individual work). This expert phase requires careful preparation on the part of the instructor. This includes, for example, structuring the topic into subtopics, selecting the materials, or formulating the task or key questions. Moreover, one should consider how to best facilitate the acquisition of the necessary working techniques and learning strategies.

During the "**exchange phase**," the groups remix, with representatives from each expert team teaching the other group members about their assigned topic and learning from the others.

The method for knowledge transfer can be prestructured or prepared by the "expert group."

The jigsaw technique's usefulness and effectiveness are founded in various principles relating to various teaching methods. The jigsaw technique

- encourages students to deal with the subject matter actively and intensively (individually and collaboratively)
- allows students to choose their own focus or integrate their own experiences
- encourages students to take responsibility for (their own) learning
- supports sustainable learning via teaching.

The method is especially useful for knowledge acquisition (for example by reading texts), but it can also be applied for assessment purposes.