

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Puzzle Art-O-Gram

INSTRUCTIONS

Why is a handwritten letter special?

A handwritten letter is a gesture to let someone know you care about them. Sending a letter in the mail creates a wonderful surprise for someone. Receiving a personal handwritten letter makes a person happy; the receiver gets a little burst of excitement when they open their mailbox because getting something in the mail is fun!

Writing thoughtful letters promotes mindfulness, creates calmness, and relieves anxiety. Composing a letter is enjoyable and can make a person happier as handwriting stimulates creativity and encourages exploration.

Pausing to take the time to send a special note shows you value a relationship. Writing letters is a tried and true tradition and a thoughtful letter can be treasured for years. Making your letter unique and extra fun makes it all the more special.

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White Paper (the thicker the better)
- Puzzle Print-out (attached)
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Colored Pencils
- Scissors
- Envelope and Stamp

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Participants will consider and create a unique drawing, considering subject matter, color, and composition. Participants will then think of a special person to compose a handwritten letter and mail a surprise to them to make their day.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think handwritten letters are important? What makes them special?
- Who would you want to send a letter to? Why?
- If you were going to send a drawing to this person, what would it be of? Why?

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Take a moment to think of a special person you would like to send a letter to. Consider why you want to send them a letter and what you would say. Think about an art image you will draw on the front-side of your puzzle. What comes to mind when you think of this special person? What would they enjoy seeing? How might it connect to what you want to say to this person?

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Step 2:

- Begin by printing the attached puzzle print-out on your computer. Use the thickest paper you have and that will go through your printer. If you do not have a printer, no worries!, you can trace or free-draw the puzzle shapes over your artwork at the end. Think about the image you want to draw; consider the design of your idea, the colors you will use, and the composition (where you will place images in your artwork).

Step 3:

- Start by using your pencil to lightly draw your design in the area of the puzzle (your design will be going over the printed outlined puzzle pieces). If you are not using the puzzle print-out sheet, draw your design in any size rectangular shape. You can draw your image horizontally or vertically, your choice!

Step 4:

- Use your colored pencils to color in your drawing. Think about layering your colors to create new colors. Experiment with pencil pressure, using lighter pressure produces a light color tone while applying more pressure produces a richer more solid color. Fill your entire paper with color.

Step 5:

- When you have completed your drawing, use your scissors to cut out the outside rectangle of the puzzle. If you aren't using the puzzle print out, at this time, use a black or regular pencil to draw puzzle shapes over your drawing and throughout your artwork. They can be random, simple shapes with curvy lines, they do not have to be exact puzzle shapes, but they must connect. Try to keep them somewhat large, roughly 2"X2".

Step 6:

- Flip your artwork over and use your pencil to compose your letter to your special person. You can write about how much they mean to you, you can tell them a joke, anything to make it personal from you to them. When you are done with your letter, use your scissors to slowly and carefully cut along the lines of the puzzle pieces, cutting out each individual puzzle shape.

Step 7:

- Address and stamp an envelope to the person you wrote your letter. Gather the pieces of your 3-in-1 puzzle, artwork and letter, carefully mix them up a little, and put them in the envelope. Print or write out the following note to include with your letter:

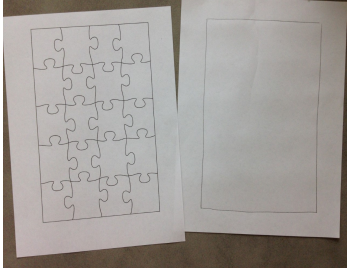
"You have received a Puzzle Art-O-Gram! Instructions: Put your puzzle together using the colored artwork as your guide. After viewing the special work of art created for you, flip the pieces over and put the puzzle together using the words as your guide so you can read your special letter. Enjoy!"

POST PROJECT PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What do you like best about the artwork you created on your puzzle?
- How do you think the person receiving your Puzzle Art-O-Gram will feel?
- What did you learn from creating your art project?

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VISUAL STEP-BY-STEP EXAMPLE:



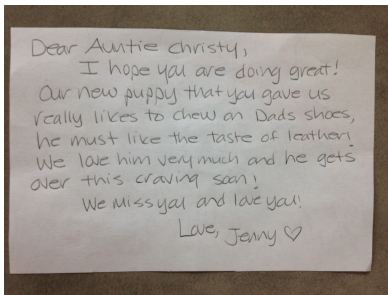
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

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