



Broken Squares

Put the broken squares back together

TIME

10-20 minutes



TEAM STAGE

Storming, Norming, Performing

MATERIALS

Broken Squares templates, scissors, envelopes

SUMMARY

This activity asks groups to complete the task of putting Tangram puzzles together. Every group will have important pieces that other groups need and in order for everyone to be successful, they will have to give pieces away. This is a great activity to talk about group success, helping others, and creating an inclusive environment.

SET UP


- Print the provided [Broken Squares templates](#) or create new ones. The important thing is that there is a different, unique pattern or template for each small group.
 - For example: *If there are five small groups, five different templates will be needed.*
- Cut up the templates, mix up all the pieces, and distribute them into envelopes so that each group can be given an envelope containing pieces from several templates.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide participants into groups of four or five people each.
- Pass out one envelope filled with pieces to each group. Tell participants not to open envelopes until the rules have been given.
- Tell participants that inside their envelopes are pieces of paper that form perfect squares. The rules for the activity are as follows:
 - The objective is to create complete squares of equal size.
 - All pieces must be used.
 - Participants may not take pieces from other participants or ask for pieces. They may only give away their own pieces and may not ask for anything in return.
 - Pieces must be exchanged between individuals. They cannot be left in the center of the room as “giveaways”.
- After all the rules have been covered, tell participants they may begin.

VARIATIONS

- For a more challenging variation, do not allow participants to speak during this activity.
- Make templates out of anything! Use inspirational quotes or fun images to make “puzzles” for participants to put together.
- Try out [Card Triangles](#) for a twist on this activity!

 **Small Groups:** To facilitate this activity for a small group, give each participant their own envelope instead of putting them into groups.



VARIATIONS *(continued)*

- **Online:** To facilitate this activity virtually, create a shared document with a slide for each small group. Use the [premade Leadership Inspirations Broken Squares document](#) and adjust it as needed. Break participants into small groups and assign each small group a slide to work with. To give away pieces, have participants "cut" pieces off of their slide and "paste" them to another slide. [\[click here for video\]](#)

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

- What:
 - What was effective about the group process? What was ineffective?
 - What was it like for you to give pieces away in this activity? What was it like to receive pieces?
 - So What:
 - How can this activity foster a sense of inclusion?
 - In what other situations is it beneficial for us to help each other?
 - Now What:
 - What is one thing you can do as an individual to foster inclusion in this group?
 - What is one thing we can start, stop, or continue to do as a group that will help create a more inclusive environment?
- **Facilitator Note:** These questions can be used to guide your debrief, however, pick the questions that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed.