

Archaeology Jigsaw

You will need

- Jigsaw
- Boxes
- Filler material (sand, soil etc.)

This activity counts towards

Beavers Derbyshire Archaeology Badge Requirement 3

Activity Details

Time: 1 Hour

\$ £

Indoors & Outdoors

Teams

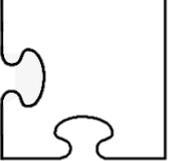
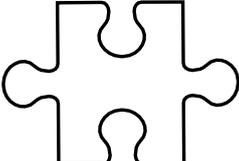
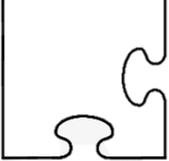
Beavers

Before you begin

- Before carrying out this activity it could be helpful to carry out requirement 1 of the Beavers Derbyshire archaeology badge so that they have been introduced to the concept of archaeology.
- The person leading the activity should get together the boxes, jigsaws and filler material.
 - You could either have one box for the whole colony or for each lodge
- The person leading the activity should then fill the boxes with sand or soil.
 - Or any material that can be used to hide the jigsaw pieces
- The person leading the activity should then place the jigsaw pieces into the boxes and mix it up so you can't see the jigsaw pieces.
 - You should leave a piece or two out from each box and then discuss how you can't always find every piece in archaeology and must use your imagination to finish the jigsaw

Activity

1. Have a discussion with the young people about how archaeologists need to excavate items to help tell them about the past. It is just like a jigsaw and the archaeologists must piece the jigsaw together to find out as much as they can. But archaeologists will not always have all the pieces of the jigsaw and need to fill in the gaps using their imagination
2. Explain that they are going to have a go at excavating (digging) their own jigsaw and try and piece it all together
3. Hand out the box/es to the young people
4. Explain that they need to excavate carefully so not to miss any of the pieces or damage them
5. The young people then need to try and find all the pieces
6. Once they have collected all the pieces they can find, they should start to assemble the jigsaw
7. Once the incomplete jigsaw is finished, you should discuss what they think the missing pieces may have looked like and what they think the completed jigsaw would look like



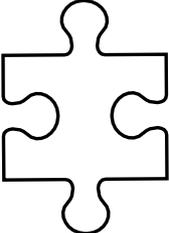
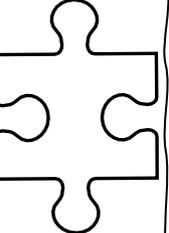
Reflection

Have the young people experienced completing a jigsaw before but not had all the pieces? What did they do, did they think the jigsaw was useless? In archaeology any bit of evidence is helpful, so whether there's one or twenty pieces of evidence, all are as important as the other.

Safety

Outdoor activities: Always check the weather forecast and inform parents and carers of any change in venue.

Filler material: The young people may need to wash their hands after the activity. It may also be worth putting down some material so the filler material doesn't cause a mess.



Change the level of challenge

For the budding problem solvers, a cut up paper plate could be used instead of a jigsaw, it could have a written message or symbol on it.

For the budding artists, they could have a go at drawing the missing pieces, rather than just discussing what they think it may have looked like (see step 7)

To help anyone struggling, a simpler jigsaw could be used, or they could be shown part of the final jigsaw picture to help them envisage how the pieces fit together.

Make it accessible

If anyone struggles with fine motor skills, larger jigsaw pieces could be used.

Anyone who doesn't want to touch the filler material can direct another person on the team, or you could offer them gloves.

Youth Shaped guidance

Allow the young people to use their own imagination to complete the jigsaw, encourage them to think of multiple different options. As there is no certain answer in archaeology, we must come up with lots of different ideas before trying to find the one which fits best.

