

## The Barter Puzzle

20 minutes

**Purpose:** This exercise is time-consuming, but it accomplishes creative teamwork on several levels. As a team, they must build the puzzle. As a team, they must find a way to convince the other teams to help them. In other words, they must solve both the puzzle and the problem of getting their pieces back.

**What you will need:** 3-4 puzzles with 50 or less pieces (relatively easy puzzle)

### Instructions:

1. Break your team into groups of equal members.
2. Give each team a distinctly different jigsaw puzzle of equal difficulty. Explain that they have a set amount of time to complete the puzzle as a group.
3. Explain that some of the pieces in their puzzle belong to the other puzzles in the room.
  - a. The goal is to complete their puzzle before the other groups, and that they must come up with their own method of convincing the other teams to relinquish the pieces they need, whether through barter, exchange of team members, donating time to another team, a merger, etc. Whatever they choose to do, they must do it as a group.
4. The team who gets all their pieces assembled the fastest wins.

### Follow up:

- Walk me through your thought process. What did you do to get your pieces?
- What went well? What did not go well?
- What communication challenges did you have?
- What communication successes did you have?
- Did people on your team have specific roles? For example a leader, a puzzle builder, a liaison to the other teams, etc.
- How can you apply this to your work space?