

The Science of Learning Well... Together

Student Tip #7

When a topic is large it can be helpful to break it down into smaller parts, and have different group members complete different components. These pieces can then be all brought together to build a bigger picture of the topic - a bit like putting the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together. This strategy helps you to take this jigsaw approach with your group online. You can use this strategy with lots of topics and subjects. The key is the planning of what you do together as a group to start with, and making sure you set a timeline together that is manageable for everyone.

Puzzle Pieces

STEP 1: With Your Group...

As a group identify chapters/ topic/ events/ concepts/ characters that you are learning about or will be assessed on. This is your 'inquiry'.



Divide the above inquiry into sections and assign parts to each member of the group.



Develop some shared focus questions, resources and strategies to help guide your individual inquiry tasks.



Together, establish a timeline for the individual inquiry tasks, and set a date to come back together and share.



STEP 2: On Your Own...



Set aside time each day to work on your individual inquiry.

STEP 3: With Your Group...

Return to the group and each person present their individual inquiry tasks. Discuss and question to develop a shared understanding.

Piece together the individual pieces of information. Develop a mind map, timeline, or other visual representation of the topic, and how each of the individual parts connect together. Discuss and question.

As a group, identify what other information is still needed, and how it will be collected.

