

Vacation Week

Make Your Own Jigsaw Puzzle

John Spilsbury is credited with inventing the jigsaw puzzle in 1767. He was an engraver and mapmaker and early jigsaw puzzles were maps pasted onto wood and cut them into small pieces. Puzzles were used throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth century as toys for children. At the turn of the twentieth century, puzzle makers made jigsaw puzzles for adults.

Have you assembled any puzzles during this vacation week?



Zouave soldier puzzle. 1861-1865. Connecticut Historical Society.

Duration: 45 minutes

Materials:

- Image (choose a magazines picture like a scene of a beach, a forest, or anywhere else that would be your dream vacation.
- Cardboard
- Glue or rubber cement, container for glue
- Disposable foam brush
- Good craft scissors



Instructions:

1. Choose your unique picture and carefully remove it from the magazine.
2. Apply a thorough and smooth coat of glue on the cardboard. Place the picture on the cardboard starting from one of the sides. Smooth down the entire picture. Try to avoid wrinkles. Be sure the entire paper is completely glued down including edges.
3. Let dry completely, weigh down with some heavy books to prevent warping and to “iron out” wrinkles.
4. Cut off excess cardboard. Re-glue any edges if needed.
5. Randomly cut out picture into pieces of similar size or draw lines you will cut on the back of cardboard. Large pieces will make an easier puzzle. For a more difficult puzzle, cut into smaller pieces.



This is a non-interlocking puzzle like the first puzzle ever created.

6. Mix those pieces and have fun doing your one-of-a-kind jigsaw puzzle.

