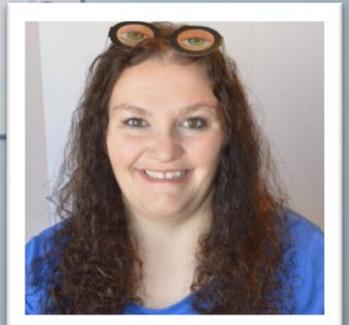


Magic Square Puzzles

HOJO'S
TEACHING
Adventures



Customer Feedback:
My class LOVES these. It's a challenge for them but they persevere through the task! Thank you!



Magic Square Puzzle Benefits

- Gives students a lesson in **perseverance**!
- Keep students **engaged** through a fun, game format.
- They're **hands on**.
- Employ **critical thinking** skills.
- Use them with ALL students – GATE, special needs, RTI, Title I, ELL, and general education classrooms.
- Use them in a variety of ways – small groups, individual work, partner projects, and more!
- Include differentiated options so students at different levels can work on the same material.
- These can be used for a variety of reasons:
 - Centers
 - Review
 - Early or fast finishers
 - Enrichment
- Plus they're **low prep** so teachers can have them ready in no time – just print, cut, and go!

Customer Feedback:

I love how your puzzles are differentiated. My students can do the same assignment with their friends and not be shy about having something different.

How to prep Magic Square Puzzles

1. Print 2. Cut 3. Go

Print off the desired numbers of copies. Many puzzles contain differentiated versions, so make sure you print the puzzle/s you need.

Cut out the Magic Square Puzzles. (You can also laminate them to ensure they last longer.)

Put them into plastic baggies for students' use. Each set gets its own plastic bag. Put all the baggies and one original sheet (to act as an answer key) in a manila envelope with the name of the activity on the front. This way you have the answer key and all materials readily available!

Don't worry! Students can see the puzzle beforehand! I give my students the full sheet, have them cut each puzzle out, and then ask them to put the puzzle back together.

Customer Feedback:

My students loved this game! I had a parent put it together, so it was ready to go for centers! Thanks!

Don't want students to see the full puzzle (which doubles as the answer key) before completing the puzzle? No worries!

- Ask parent volunteers to cut out and prep the puzzles.
- Have students from another class (or high school volunteers) prep for you.
- Have students cut the puzzles out a week early. (They're forgetful! 😊)
- Give students a puzzle to cut out, but then have them complete a *different* puzzle by switching with a friend. Since many puzzles have multiple options or differentiated versions, this is an option for many of the puzzles.

Remediation Ideas

- Use the puzzles without anything around the outside edges (if those were provided in the puzzle you purchased). I provide a variety of differentiation options when you download Magic Square Puzzles, so this will help your students by having less to work with. You can also give them the hint that the outside edges are “plain”. It’s sort of like putting together a regular puzzle. We know the outside edges are smooth and flat. In this case, the outside edges are plain with nothing on them. (If you choose that puzzle.)
- Go through the puzzles as a class first. Show them how to complete the puzzle. Talk through what you are doing.
- Allow them to work with a partner, particularly the first time or two.
- Keep the outside border of the Magic Square Puzzle as a guide. This way they can see the outline of what the puzzle should look like. (I’ve noticed some students really struggle with the idea of it being a square.)
- Mark the upper left square with a green dot. This is where a child would typically start reading, so tell them this is their starting point.
- If the puzzle is typically nine squares, give them just four to start with. If the puzzle is typically 16 squares, give the child just 9 to start with. Once they feel comfortable with that many, increase the amount.

Customer Feedback:

These were interesting! The kids who solved them first were the kids who usually struggle more! Love!

- Draw a border around the outside of the Magic Square Puzzle with a noticeable color. Tell the students this is the outline.

- Mark the four corner squares so students know which ones they are.
- Highlight matching sides so students can find the answers more quickly. (Highlighting about half the options and leaving the other half plain would work!)

Customer Feedback:

Great tool for helping my students catch-up on their multiplication facts, which is so important for being able to work in 5th grade.

Extension Ideas

- Make sure to give these students Magic Square Puzzles with numbers or words around the outside edges. These puzzles are more challenging, so they will be great for your high fliers or GATE students.
- Ask your students to glue their Magic Square Puzzle to paper. Then have them write problems (for math puzzles) to match the outside edges of the Magic Square Puzzle.

What People Are Saying

I am planning centers for next year and I had my kids do the more challenging version (now that it's the end of year) and for some it was still tough! Love that it challenged them! I can't wait to see what other magic squares you have.

This was a terrific addition to my math stations.

I love how many options you provided. I have some fast finishers that love the challenge these puzzles give and always ask for more. Thanks!

This was incredibly fun! My students now beg for Magic Squares!

My students love these and are always challenged when I offer them as an activity.

My kids love these. They are great for a fun way to practice math facts!! My kids argue over who gets to complete them first!

My students ask to play this game all the time! Thanks!

I bought this for my own child who fell in love with the magic squares I had in my room for my first grade students. A great alternative to flashcards.

Perfect ! I used this with my reluctant fact learners.

Other Usage Ideas

- Turn your Magic Square Puzzles into a magnet center! This is great for math or literacy centers.
- Create a file folder game. Simply put a little Velcro inside of a file folder and you have an immediate game you can use over and over with any set of Magic Square Puzzles. (Plus those pesky puzzle pieces won't get lost!)
- Once students understand how the puzzles work, have teams race to see who can complete the puzzle first.



Storage Ideas

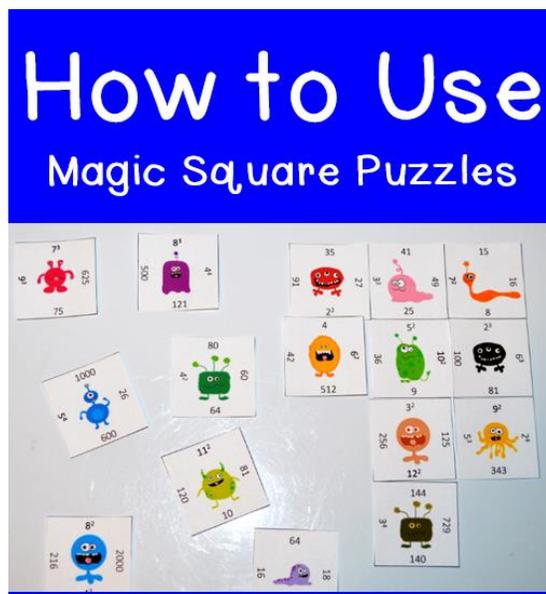
- Take one cut up Magic Square Puzzle and put all those pieces into a plastic baggie. (This is what you'll give the students.)
- Put all the baggies for one class set in a manila envelope with the name of the activity on the front. (Or you can print the first page of the resource and glue it on.)
 - This way you have the answer key and all materials readily available.

Still not sure how Magic Square Puzzles work?

Check out [this YouTube video!](#)



Or look at this [blog post!](#)



Want FREE Magic Square Puzzles to try?

You can get over 15 different Magic Square Puzzles (math, seasonal, and ELA) for FREE by clicking [here](#).

There is also an exclusive set of differentiated preK-6th grade Addition Magic Square Puzzles for my newsletters subscribers. You get 17 puzzles!
[Sign up here](#).



The Face Behind the Puzzles!

My name is Heather. I'm a certified elementary and special education teacher in the state of South Dakota. I am also certified to be a K-12 Reading Specialist or Principal. If interested, you can see everything I'm certified to teach [here](#).

My classroom experience has ranged from preK-6th grade. I've taught everything from a regular gen ed classroom to inclusion special education to a multi-grade classroom of ELL students.

All of these varied experiences have given me a chance to really see that teaching is all about "fun, engaged, impactful relationships & learning". (This has also become my blogging mantra!) Treat students with respect and they will do almost anything for you! Once you've built the relationships, the learning will come.

After seven years in the classroom and an additional year of being a K-6 principal at two schools and K-12 district special education director, I'm now home caring for our two children and working online. I miss the students and staff, but I love still having my hands in education through my online endeavors.

If you have any questions about me, my resources, or my blog – please reach out! I love connecting with other educators from around the world!

~Heather aka HoJo~

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Thank you for your interest!

~HoJo~

Please consider contacting me or following me in one of the ways below -

E-mail: HoJosTpTStore@yahoo.com

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HOJO'S TEACHING Adventures

FUN, ENGAGED, IMPACTFUL RELATIONSHIPS & LEARNING

Looking for more great Magic Square activities?

You can find them [HERE](#) in my Teachers Pay Teachers [store](#)!

Current Magic Square concepts include: [addition](#), [subtraction](#), [multiplication](#), [division](#), [color words](#), [letter recognition](#), [compound words](#), [irregular plural nouns](#), [irregular verbs](#), [contractions](#), [exponents](#), [states/capitals](#), [CVCC](#), [CVCE](#), [blends](#), [telling time](#), [money](#), [place value](#), [rounding](#), [lines/angles/rays](#), [fractions](#), [shapes](#), and [MORE!](#)

Magic Squares are being added regularly, so make sure to [follow my store](#)!

Here are some pictures of the Magic Squares in action!

