

Social Studies Whole-Class Instructional Strategy:

Jigsaw

The Basics

What? This is a group learning method where students first learn about primary and secondary sources of information. Then, they share what they have learned with another group of students.

When? When students read a lengthy text or a series of sources.

Why? Students can develop their communication skills and learn to use secondary and primary sources. This understanding is much deeper than what they would gain if they had to learn everything on their own.

How to Implement

1. Choose a text and divide the text into four or more sections, or choose four or more separate texts for students to read.
2. Introduce students to “home” groups. The home group consists of 3-4 students who will become experts in varying sections of the text or various texts.
3. Assign each student from a home group to a different expert group.
4. In each expert group, provide students with the same text or section of a text.
5. Give students a reason to read the text. Provide them with an annotation guide or questions to help focus their reading. Allow students time to read and analyze their assigned texts on their own. After reading, give the expert groups time to decide what content to share and how to present it to their home group.
6. Then ask each student to return to their home group and provide structured time for the students to present the information they received from the text in their expert group with the home group.
7. As a final step, have the home groups summarize what they learned through whole-class discussion, a presentation to the class, a graphic organizer, or a writing assignment.

Resources and Additional Information

- [Implementation guide](#) from [TheTeacherToolkit.org](https://www.theteachertoolkit.org) with downloadable elementary and secondary templates
- [Research](#) supporting Jigsaw strategy
- [Video Model](#) of this strategy
- Example topics in [Bayou Bridges: A Louisiana Social Studies Curriculum](#) in which the Jigsaw strategy would be helpful:
 - **Grades 3-5:** The City-States of Ancient Greece (BB G4 U3, LSSSS 4.4, 4.12, 4.16, 4.16.e), The Inca Empire (BB G5 U4, LSSSS 5.6)
 - **Grades 6-8:** French Colonial Louisiana (BB G6 U3, LSSSS 6.10), Prelude to Secession and War (BB G7 U5, LSSSS 7.13, 7.13.a, 7.13.b)