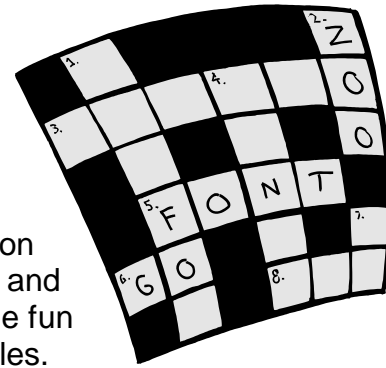


Puzzle Day (Afterschool Program, Ages 7-13)

Description of Program:

January 29th is the day to celebrate our national obsession with all things puzzling. Crosswords, word finds, jigsaws, and brain-teasers are just a few of our favorites. Come join the fun as we figure out the answers to some very puzzling puzzles.



Stories:

Arithme-Tickle: An Even Number of Odd Riddle-Rhymes by Patrick J. Lewis

The Fantastic 5 & 10¢ Store: A Rebus Adventure by Patrick J. Lewis

Riddle-icious by Patrick J. Lewis

Mom and Dad are Palindromes by Mark Shulman

Enigma: a Magical Mystery by Graeme Base

The Once Upon a Time a Map Book by B.G. Hennessy

Imagine by Norman Messenger

Mazeways by Roxie Munro

Book Discussion Books: If you have a middle grade book discussion group, here are some great titles that feature puzzle solving.

The Puzzling World of Winston Breen by Eric Berlin

The Gollywhopper Games by Jody Feldman

The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Stewart

Craft Ideas

Create Your Own Jigsaw Puzzle

Buy blank puzzles and let your patrons draw their own designs. Blank puzzles are available at <http://www.orientaltrading.com>

Make Your Own Rebus Puzzle

Creating rebus puzzles can be fun. Put out old magazines and paper for the kids to draw and collage their own. Invite them to share their puzzles with the group to see if anyone can figure them out.

Activities:

I Spy Bulletin Board / Contest

Create a bulletin board based on the popular *I Spy* books. Based on what you put on your bulletin board, create a scavenger hunt form for kids to use to try and locate the items on your board.

Code-Doku

Based on the popular numerical based puzzle *Sudoku*, *Code-Doku* uses letter instead of the number 1-9. When you solve the puzzle correctly, you reveal a secret message. (see attached sheet for this puzzle)

Giant Puzzle

Supplies: large appliance box, box cutter, paint

Paint a design on the side of an empty appliance box. Cut the box up into puzzle pieces. Give the pieces to the group to try and reassemble.

Group Games:

Turn the Circle Inside Out

Have the group form a circle with everyone facing towards the middle. Ask for everyone to join hands and close their eyes. Now the group must try to turn the circle inside out so that everyone is facing out, without letting go of each others' hands.

(Hint: the solution is that two players hold up their hands and everyone else follows through underneath.)

Human Knot

Arrange group members in a circle, standing shoulder to shoulder. Have everyone put their right hand up in the air, and then grab the hand of someone across the circle from them. Everyone then puts their left hand up in the air and grabs the hand of a different person. Make sure that everyone is holding the hands of two different people and that they are not holding hands with someone directly next to them. Now tell the group to untangle themselves and to make a circle without breaking the chain of hands. If the chain is broken, they'll need to start over.

Build the Tower Game

Supplies: 4 - 5 stacks of newspapers, 5 rolls of masking tape, measuring tape

Divide participants into teams of five. Give each group a stack of newspapers and a roll of masking tape. Explain the object of the game is to build the highest newspaper tower, using only newspaper and masking tape. Let them know they will have 15 minutes to complete their tower.

The team with the highest tower wins.

Note: This activity can also be done with marshmallows and toothpicks.

Snacks:

Puzzle Sugar Cookies (puzzle piece cookie cutters are available online)

Bring puzzle sugar cookies in and let the participants decorate them.

Websites:

Puzzle Playground

Looking for more great puzzles to celebrate National Puzzle Day? Visit puzzle playground:

<http://www.puzzles.com/PuzzlePlayground/WelcomeToPuzzlePlayground.htm>

Puzzle Day Code-Doku



Place each of the letters E, F, G, I, O, R, T, U, and W exactly once in each row, column, and 3X3 box. When you have completed the puzzle, the shaded squares can be read left to right, from top to bottom to form a phrase answering this question:

How do we celebrate Puzzle Day?

	G		F	E		R		
U	I	T				W		
R	F		U		W			O
		I		F			W	
	T		W		E	O		I
	O	U		T		F		
			T		U		O	G
	E	O				I	U	
G		R		O	I		F	

Code-Doku Answer Key

O	G	W	F	E	T	R	I	U
U	I	T	R	G	O	W	E	F
R	F	E	U	I	W	G	T	O
E	R	I	O	F	G	U	W	T
F	T	G	W	U	E	O	R	I
W	O	U	I	T	R	F	G	E
I	W	F	T	R	U	E	O	G
T	E	O	G	W	F	I	U	R
G	U	R	E	O	I	T	F	W