Copyright © TLO Limited 2006

What you are trying to achieve …

Recognise the nature of co-operation and collaboration in solving a problem.

Set up the Learning Challenge

Groups of five plus one observer.

Give each person in the group an envelope containing pieces of card (see DIY Resource).

Show learning challenge sheet and explain.

Brief observers.

The challenge is to form one square in front of each member. Only some pieces for forming the five squares are in each envelope. BUT — you may not talk or signal.

Debrief by observers

When all squares are completed, observers share their observations with the group.

Plenary debrief

Collect information from groups and record as follows:

- number of groups completing the task
- times taken
- number of times a member gave away a piece
- number of times a member took a piece
- number of members who cut themselves off
- co-operative behaviours.

Discuss the results.

Is there a relationship between time taken, giving pieces, and co-operative behaviour?

What does this tell us about working in groups?

Extend understanding of collaboration

Collaboration is about working together to complete a task or solve a problem.

Collaboration is helped when everyone knows (and agrees with) the group goal:

– when individual goals and group goals complement each other;

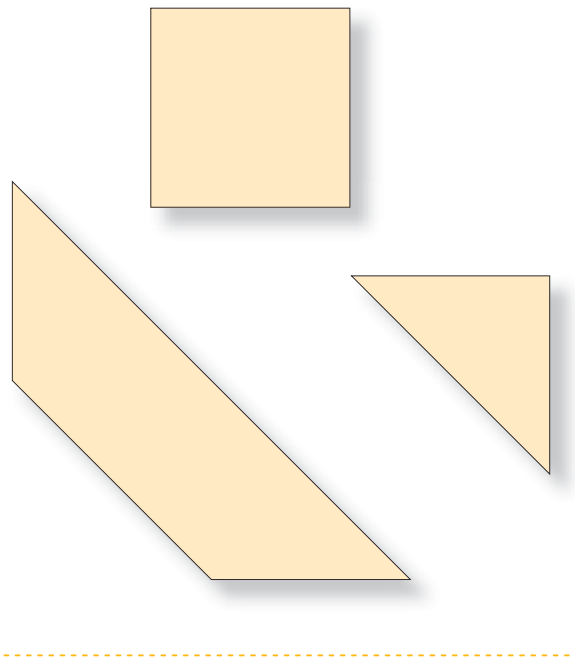
– when the challenge seems do-able.

Move on to Transferring activities and the Learning Log.

Hints and tips	Things to Try …
For younger students, the activity could use parts of dolls / teddy bears / etc. Aim to make up dolls / teddies with all the correct parts.	Two ways to focus the activity. 1 Instruct the group to be co-operative i.e. their main goal is to complete all the squares 2 Tell the group that the main goal is for each individual to complete their square. This is a competitive group. The individual goal is more important than the group goal.

Copyright © TLO Limited 2006

A Learning Challenge – Broken Squares



Your challenge is to …

Form one square in front of each member of the team.

Your individual goal is to form a square in front of yourself as fast as possible.

The group goal is to form a square in front of everyone as fast as possible.

Your resources …

- You each have an envelope which contains only some pieces for forming 5 squares.

  DO NOT OPEN UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN!

Rules …

- **No talking, pointing or any other sort of communication**
- No asking for a piece of the puzzle or signalling
- You can give a piece of puzzle to another member
- You may not put puzzle pieces in the centre for others to pick up
- You can give all the pieces away even if you have formed a square

The observer will see that you keep to these rules.

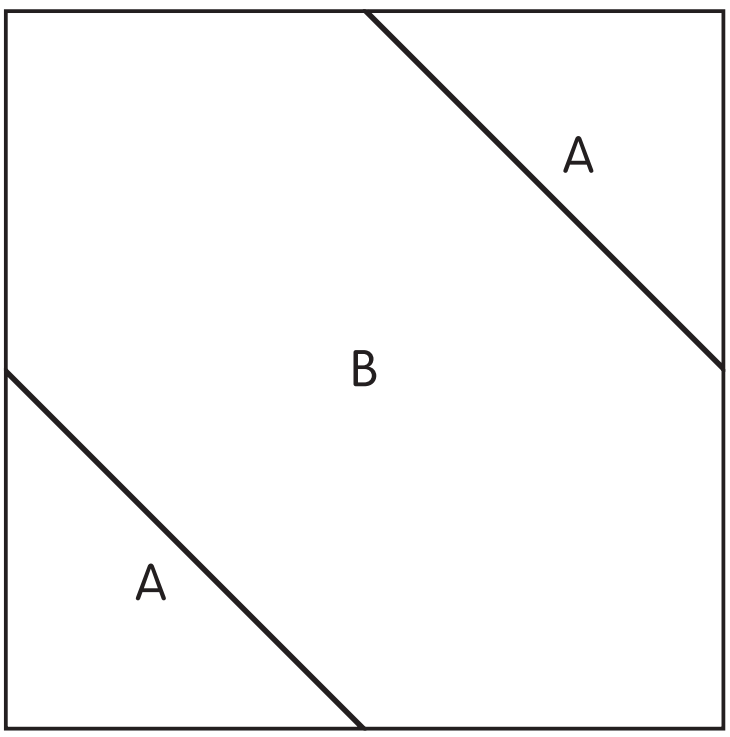
Copyright © TLO Limited 2006

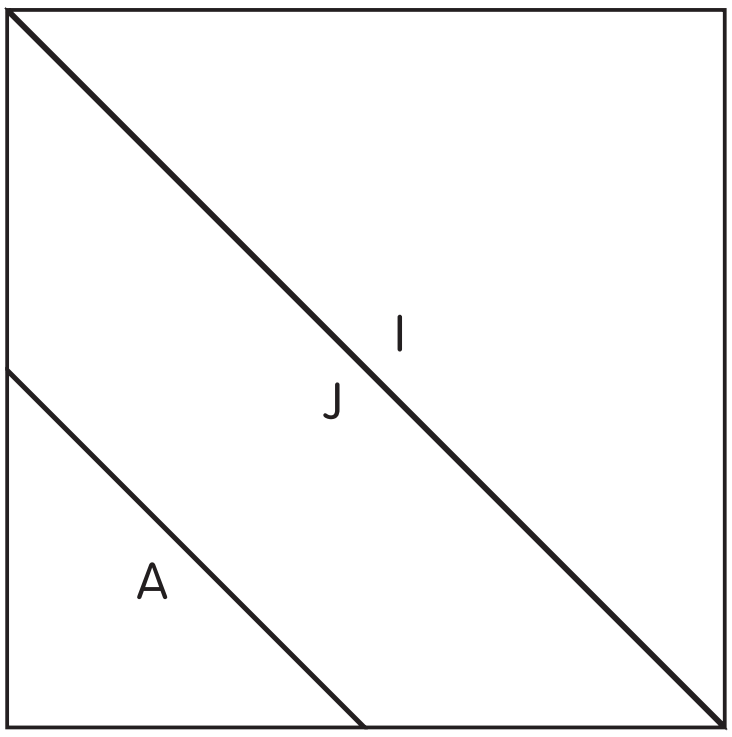
DIY Resource: Broken Squares

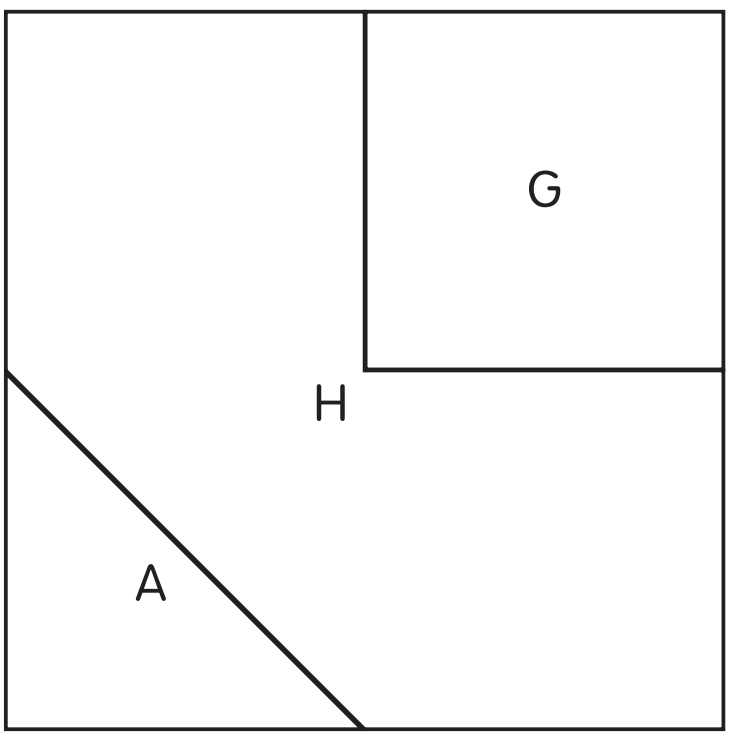
Your challenge …

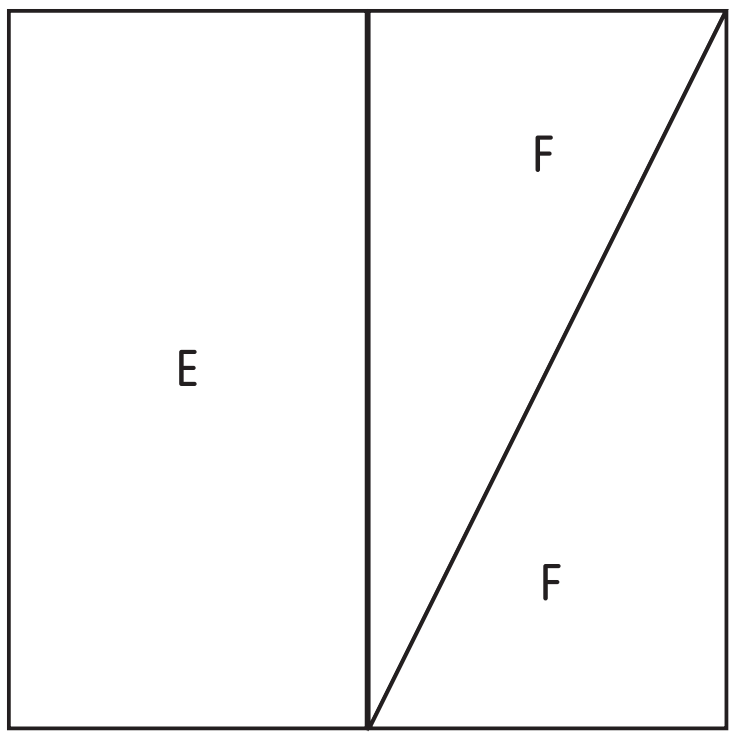
Print out the five cardboard squares on the following pages. Cut up and sort the shapes into the following groups and place inside five envelopes labelled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

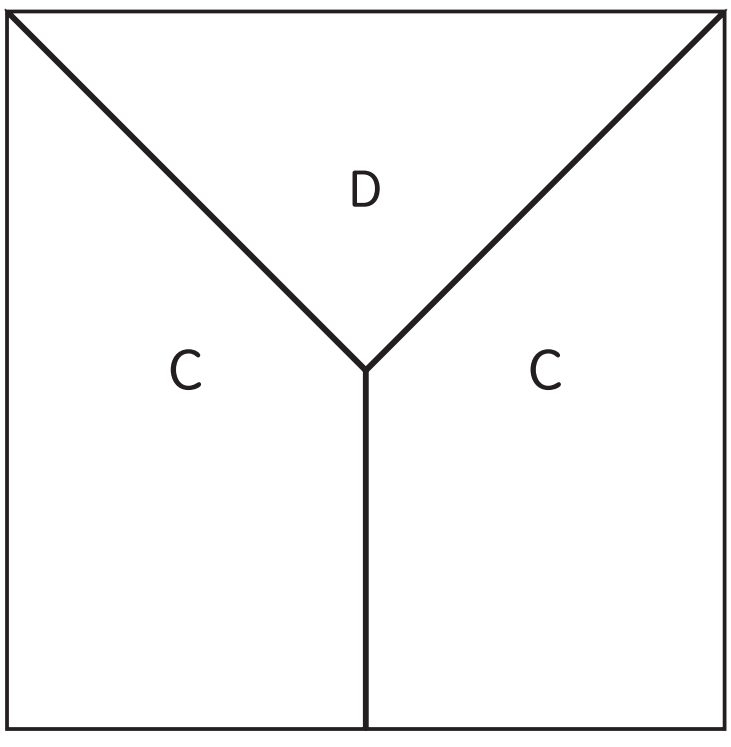
1 = pieces I, H, E **2** = pieces A, A, A, C **3** = pieces A, J **4** = D, F **5** = pieces G, B, F, C











When assigning to envelopes, write the envelope letter on each piece. This makes it easy to return pieces to the correct envelope for later use.

For each five-member group you will need a set of five envelopes with pieces distributed as above.

BLP
www.blp.uk.com

Copyright © TLO Limited 2006

Observing a Learning Challenge: Broken Squares

Your task is to watch what happens, record this on the grid AND enforce the rules. Watch time carefully.

	Names of group members				
Behaviours	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Took a puzzle piece from another member					
Gave a puzzle piece to another member					
People who completed own square and then didn't help others					
Other					

Task completed: Yes [ ] No [ ] **Time taken:** _____mins _____secs

BLP
www.blp.uk.com