



# Goal Directed Behavior

## ABOUT MORNINGSIDE CENTER

Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility's evidence-validated programs engage young people in learning essential social and emotional skills and help educators build productive and respectful schools. The 4Rs Program combines superior children's books with engaging SEL activities that explore community, feelings, relationships, conflict, and problem-solving, adding depth to literacy instruction.

# Completing the Square

By: The 4Rs



## Completing the Square

### Note to the teacher:

*Completing the Square* is an excerpt from The 4Rs™ [Reading, Writing, Respect & Resolution] *Teaching Guide for Middle School*, Unit 10: Making a Difference, pp 177-179, which includes working collaboratively as an essential skill for making a difference.

**Time:** 25 minutes

**Materials:** Prepare ahead: envelopes with 15 puzzle pieces to make 5 squares, one for each small group

1. Explain to the class that they will be working together in small groups to complete a puzzle.
2. Divide the class into groups of 4-5 by counting off or self-selection.
3. Give each group an envelope containing the 15 puzzle pieces. Their task is to put the pieces together to build 5 squares identical in size and made of three pieces each.
4. Start the activity. After 10 minutes, call “TIME.”
5. Many of the groups will not have completed the task at this point. Reassure them that they will go back to it shortly. Ask the students to reflect on how it’s going so far. If some groups are struggling, say you noticed that and ask them the following questions:
  - What were some of the obstacles to completing the task?



## Completing the Square

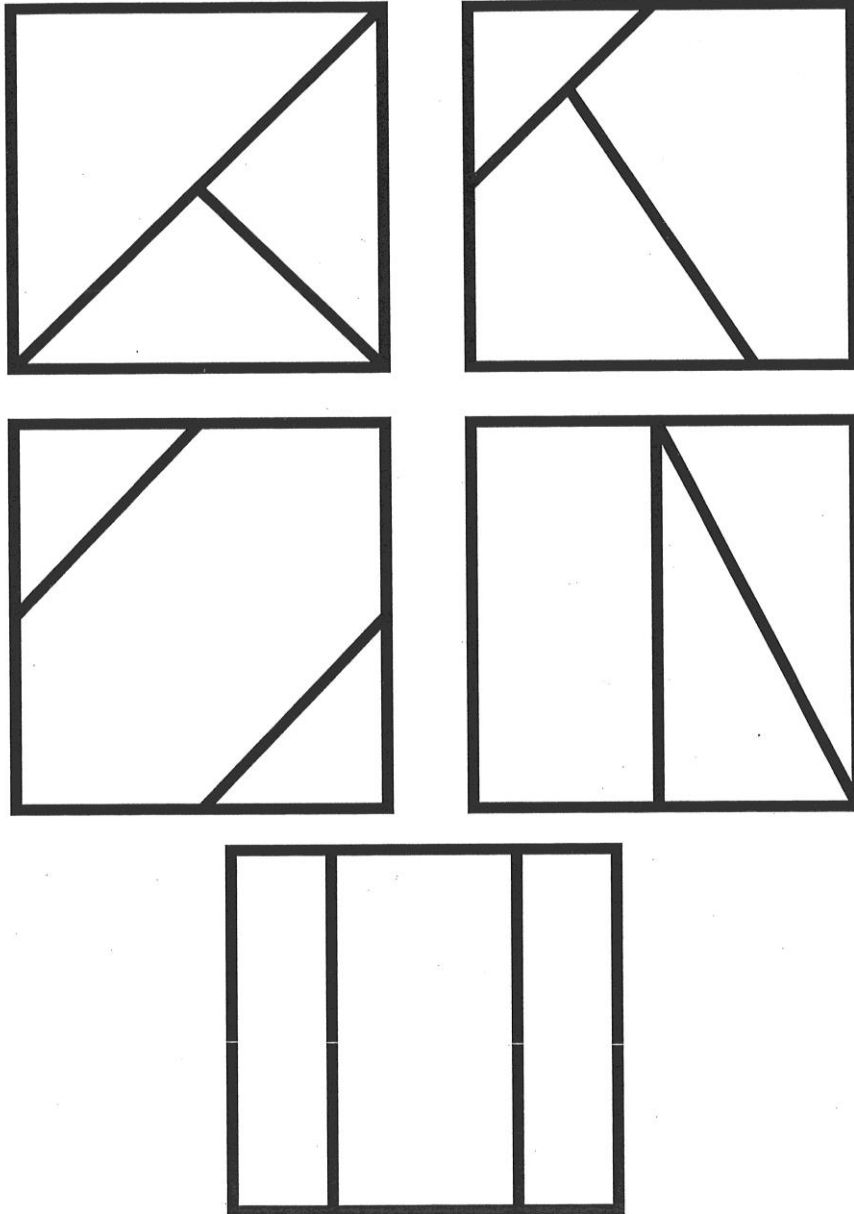
- In your group, were you working as individuals or as a group?
  - What behaviors or attitudes made completion of the task difficult? (e.g. hoarding pieces, grabbing, withdrawal)
  - For those who did complete the activity, what behavior was present in your group?
  - Elicit from the group some things they can do to complete this activity together.
6. Invite the students to resume working on the task, using the cooperative behaviors mentioned in the discussion.
7. Discuss: How did it go this time? What was different? What can we learn about working together from this activity?

*Copy the squares on the following page onto card stock or construction paper. Make as many copies as you will have small groups. [ex. 7 groups with 4 students, etc.] Cut the pieces apart and put each full set into an envelope.*



## Completing the Square

**Completing the Square** Boxes (Pre-cut from construction paper and place in envelopes)



*The 4Rs™ Program combines superior children's books with engaging SEL activities that explore community, feelings, relationships, conflict, problem-solving and diversity, and adds depth to literacy instruction.*