# COOPERATIVE 5 SQUARE

Have five envelopes with parts of the puzzles in them.

Divide the class into groups of 5.

Begin by asking what "cooperative problem solving" means. List their responses on the board.

This is an experiment in cooperation. The experiment is a puzzle that requires cooperation to complete.

Each person will have an envelope containing pieces for forming squares. The task of the group is to form 5 squares of equal size. The task is not completed until everyone in the group has a perfec square and all the squares are the same size.

RULES: No member may speak. No member may ask for a card or in any way signal that he/she wants a card. Members may give cards to others.

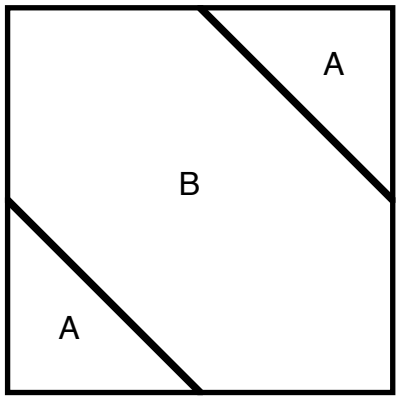
Distribute the envelopes. Let each group work until their puzzles are completed.

CONCEPTS TO BE LEARNED:

1. Sometimes joint-problem solving results in better decisions.
2. Sometimes joint-problem solving results in frustration if everyone won't give and take.
3. An individual's decisions affect a group's decision.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How did you feel when someone held a piece and did not see the solution?
2. What was your reaction when someone finished a square and then sat back without seeing whether his or her solution prevented others from solving the problem?
3. What were your feelings if you finished your square and then began to realize that you woul have to break it up and give away a piece?
4. How did you feel about the person who was slow to see a solution? If you were the slow person, how did you feel?
5. How did you feel when someone gave you a part you needed?
6. Was there a climate of helping or hindering?
7. What is the value of this exercise?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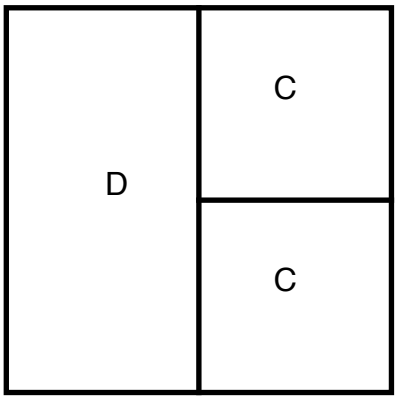
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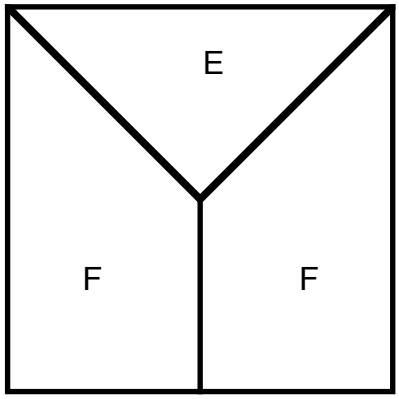
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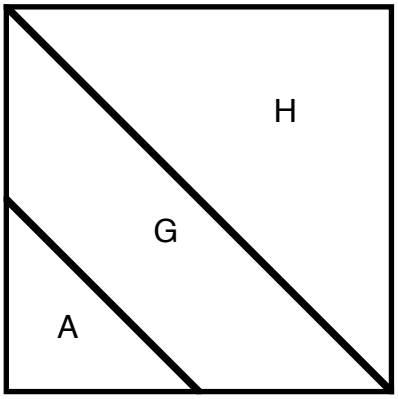
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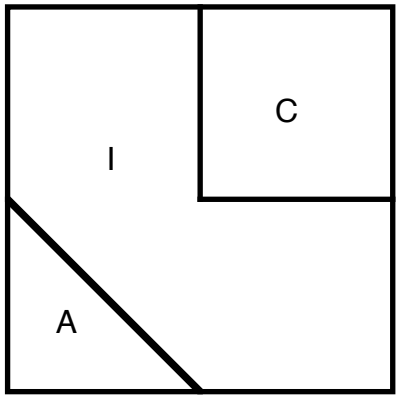
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