Broken Squares

Activity Directions

Your instructor will provide you with additional guidance for completing the activity:

Within your small group, each of you has different geometric pieces that your group can use to form five squares of equal size.

No group member may speak, ask another member for a piece, or in any way signal that another person is to give them a piece. (Group members may voluntarily give their pieces directly to to other members!) Each person must put together his or her own square. No one else may show someone how to do it or do it for them.

One person will act as the observer and help keep everyone on track. If you are the observer, consider:

- How many people were engaged in putting the puzzles together? Did anyone step back at certain points?
- Who took a leadership role? What did they do?
- What was the emotional tone of the group? Did that shift over time? Was there a turning point?
- What strategies did the team use to end up with five perfect squares?

Broken Circles is based on the Broken Squares game invented by Dr. Alex Bavelas (1973).