

How to Make a Jigsaw Invitation

Online Jigsaw Theatre Invitations Instruction Worksheet

Sending email jigsaw Christmas cards is a novel way to invite an audience to a Christmas Pageant. Use original artwork or photos from the show as classy promotion. You can adapt this idea to any celebration such as Grandparents Day, an Easter Hat Parade. Please email if you have [a gallery you would like showcased](#) on Global Citizens Art. (global.citizens.art@gmail.com)

[This Santa Jigsaw](#) was created from a canvas painting that was painted at the time the play "*Santa's Dilemma*" was performed in Brisbane for Christmas 2006 as a school production. It was a short script, copyrighted by Terry Larson.

The image of puzzled old Santa was focused on and snapped with a camera.

This image was

- uploaded to Photoshop and cropped to be 400 by 300 pixels and saved for web.
- it was enhanced by cutting away the images around Santa, leaving only Santa himself
- the surrounds were made more Australian by choosing yellow greens and earth browns to create a kind of Australian Bush Curtain around Santa

The selection of the image was negotiated with the class.

- Students brainstormed ideas and agreed that this was a fair representation of a Santa puzzled about how to deal with an Australian Christmas. One that is hot and sometimes wet. Where the flies swarm and the area to be traversed to deliver presents is huge. His droopy eyes show the doziness Australians often experience on hot Aussie Christmas Eve nights.

- Together through a brainstorming session it was decided that the words "*Have a Very Aussie Christmas*" would compliment the jigsaw card.

Adding Words

The words were added in Photoshop Elements. The easiest way to find out how to add words is to Google each of the labels bolded in the instructions below.

- the words "*Have a Very Aussie*" were placed over the top of Santa's head using the **Text Tool**
- they were bent using the **Warped Text Tool**
- the **Drop Shadow** was added with the **Layers Tool**
- the word "*Christmas*" was kept horizontal and treated simply. There is a **drop shadow** beneath.

It was decided to keep the card simple so that the impact of the novelty of the jigsaw puzzle card would do the trick of attracting a curious audience to the play.

Teachers have already seen that it is easy to make an [online jigsaw](#). The added functionality of card sending means that it can be sent all around the world as an invitation to an event. There is no expense involved in making the invitation the students do not even pay the cost of postage. (Entrepreneurial Exercise. Calculate how much you have saved. Sustainability Exercise how much paper have you saved and another aspect of sustainability is how much work and time have you saved.)

How To Make the Card

- Trim the image until it is exactly 400 x 300 pixels
- Save it once as jpeg file at a high quality resolution so that the image can be used for Promotional Literature for the play such as brochures, tickets, posters, website copy.
- Save it again in Image Ready or [Save for Web](#) so that it is as a web friendly file. This means that it is easier and quicker to load on the web.

- Register for an account with [JigZone](#)
- Upload your already prepared image (there are instructions)

How To Personalise Invitations

- You will now have a jigsaw that you can send out as an invitation to your play. As a [literacy booster](#) set students the task of writing as many cards as possible. Have them personalise the invitation with formal salutation. Explain to them what personalise means. Talk to them about the difference between group mail merge and a personal invitation.
- If students would like, you could take photos of the cast during a practice. Having made the official card they now know how to upload images and how to clean and save them to be used as jigsaw cards. So they can if they wish send out a picture of the cast to their friends just for fun. Be sure to talk to the students about what “Spamming Means.”
- Each member of the cast could send out personal invitations to friends and family featuring their own image when on stage. More general invitations could be sent out with the entire cast and crew snapped during a scene.
- If you have used jigsaws to teach in novel ways please post about it on the [Global Citizens Face Book Support Site](#).