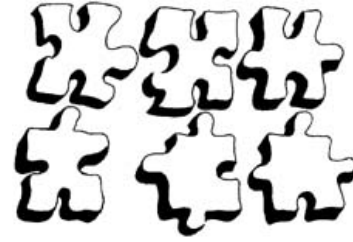


# Thinking Geographically



## 1. Asking Geographic Questions:

**This means:** to ask, speculate on (reasonable guess), and answer questions about why things are where they are how they got there.

**Our question:** How did the United States border become the one we know today?

## 2. Acquiring Geographic Information:

**This means:** gather information from a variety of sources.

**Our sources:** atlases, Internet, library books, textbooks

## 3. Organizing Geographic Information:

**This means:** display your information in a way that helps analyze and interpret the information.

**Our display of information:** a map

## 4. Analyzing Geographic Information:

**This means:** look for ways to explain the patterns, relationships and connections.

**Our analysis:** This is where you write your questions to see if people using your puzzle can find answers using your map.

## 5. Answering Geographic Questions:

**This means:** draw conclusions from the data that has been collected, organized, and analyzed.

**Your conclusion:** What differences in the geography and history of the U.S. do you believe the changing border(s) made?

**United States: From Sea to Shining Sea  
Puzzle Company  
Employee Directions**

**BACKGROUND:**

The boundary lines for the country we now know as the United States of America have changed several times. One example of this change is the result of President Jefferson's purchase of the Louisiana territory that doubled the size of the United States. Historical maps can help us visualize the changes that have been made in the boundaries of the United States.

**TASK:**

You and several friends work for a manufacturer of educational toys and games. The company plans to market a series of jigsaw puzzle maps highlighting the growth of the United States call *From Sea to Shining Sea*. Your task is to create a model for the puzzle showing the geographical face of the United States at various points in the history of the country.

**AUDIENCE:**

Your audience includes students and adults who are potential customers for the puzzles.

**PURPOSE:**

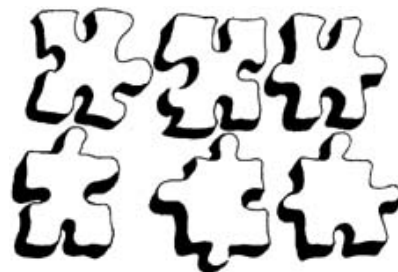
The purpose of your project is to help your audience understand the political divisions that have existed in the United States.

**PROCEDURES:**

1. Using the *Historical Atlas of the United States*, or another source such as an Internet site or your social studies textbook, select a map that shows political boundaries different than those of the modern-day United States.
2. Use your selected map and recreate the map on your paper using the materials supplied.
3. Be sure that your map contains all the elements required for a well-produced map.
4. Research how the land became part of the United States. You will write a one-paragraph summary that will be included in the packaging of your jigsaw puzzle. Your summary should include the: who, what, when, where, and why of the acquisition.
5. On one side of the envelope provided write your one-paragraph summary.
6. Following the paragraph write three questions that can be answered by reading your map. Include an answer key for your questions.
7. After your map has been evaluated by you and your supervisor using the Jigsaw Puzzle Scoring Guide, use the jigsaw puzzle template provided and cut out the pieces to your puzzle.
8. Your puzzle will then be ready for consumer testing.

**ASSESSMENT:**

1. See scoring guide.
2. Note: Your paragraph will be assessed using the 6 Traits Writing Rubric for Ideas/Content and Conventions.

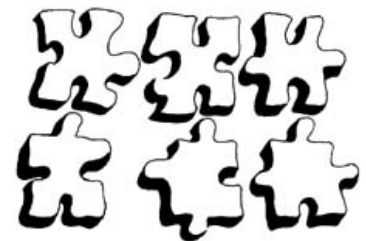


Employee Name \_\_\_\_\_

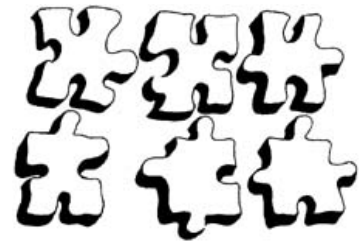
## Jigsaw Puzzle Scoring Guide

Required Elements	Possible Points	Self-Assessment	Supervisor Assessment
1. Visually appealing and effective use of color	10		
2. Neatly drawn and easy to read	10		
3. Clear and effective symbols and color coding	10		
4. Includes a legend which has all symbols accurately identified	10		
5. Has an appropriate title	5		
6. Has an orientation, date, and author	5		
7. Identifies source(s) of information	5		
8. Has three well-written questions about the map information	10		
9. Includes correct answers to the questions	10		
10. Paragraph contains complete and accurate information and is free of convention errors.	25*		
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>		

\*Based on 6 Traits of Writing



**United States: From Sea to Shining Sea Puzzle Company**  
123 N. All America Way  
Anytown, AZ 85226



Dear Potential Customer,

Thank you for taking the time to try out our proposed new line of United States historical map jigsaw puzzles called *From Sea to Shining Sea*. Your responses to the following three questions will be very helpful.

On a scale of 1 to 5 (five being the best), how would you rate the appearance of the map?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

Suggestions for improving the appearance of the map:

On a scale of 1 to 5 (five being the best), how would you rate the information provided in the paragraph summary?

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

What else would you like to know about how the United States acquired this land?

On a scale of 1 to 5 (five being the best), how would you rate the three questions? Consider whether they were too easy, unclear, not able to be answered by looking at the map, etc.

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

What could be done to improve the questions?

Puzzle Produced By: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Rating By: \_\_\_\_\_