

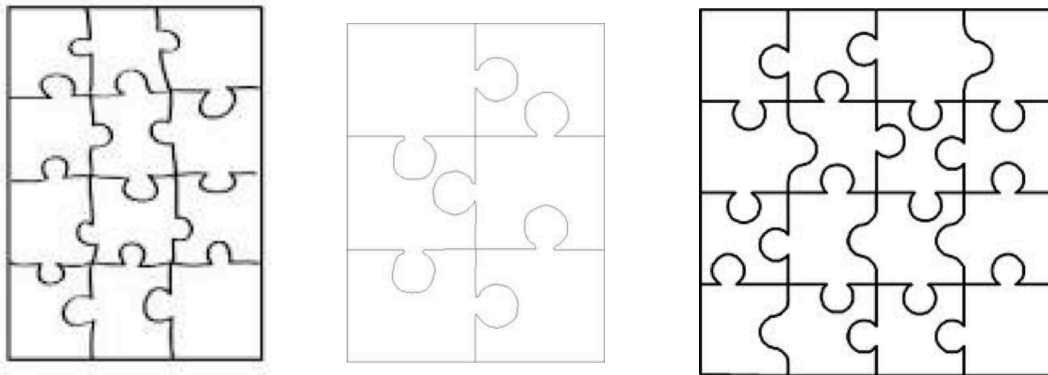
## Puzzles

**Puzzles** offer a nice mind challenge for students; especially those who like to bring order to chaos or to problem-solve. Puzzles can be **visual, mechanical, or word-based**. They can come in all kinds of shapes and sizes. They can be riddles or mathematical equations. They can be manipulated, taken apart or put together. Puzzles can be tailored to suit the young or old, they can be simple or more complex.

Here are a few ideas of how to use puzzles to teach songs or stimulate participation.

### Building a Visual Puzzle:

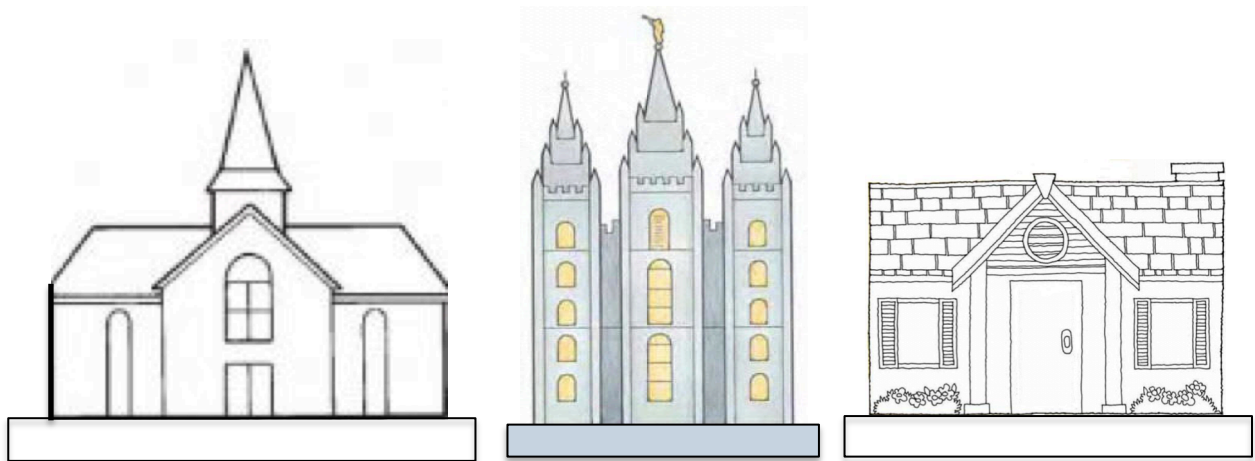
**Method 1** – Select a picture, usually a picture having something to do with the theme of the songs or topic of discussion for that day. Mount it on poster board and cut it into 8-12 large jigsaw pieces. Affix a flat magnet onto the backs of each piece. Explain to the children you will be looking for children who are singing well to come up and help put the pieces of the puzzle together. Be sure to clearly state what “singing well” means. *(You could help the younger children by drawing the outline of the puzzle onto the chalkboard.)*



**Method 2** – Select a picture or shape (*such as a house, church or temple*) that will illustrate the lyrics to the song you are teaching. Cut the picture into 6-12 pieces (*depending on the phrases or keywords of the song*). While singing, place the pieces together in phrase order. Challenge the children (*possibly working in small teams*) to take turns placing the pieces together on the board during successive repeats.

### Example – “I Belong to the Church of Jesus Christ”

Use a large silhouette of a church building or temple. Separate the different sections of the church by foundation, entrance doors, windows, roof, steeple, etc. Keep sections big enough to fit keywords or picture clues on them. Write the name of the Church or enlarge the official LDS church logo onto the traced outline of the church building drawn onto a large poster board.



While singing, attach the puzzle pieces (*using tape or sticky tack*) with the keywords or picture clues onto the church outline starting with the foundation and building upward for each of the next phrases: 1. "I know who I am," 2. "I know God's plan," 3. "I'll follow him in faith," 4. "I believe in the Savior (picture of Christ) Jesus Christ," 5. "I'll honor his name," 6. "I'll do what is right," 7. "I'll follow his light," 8. "His truth I will proclaim." (*Angel Moroni blowing the trumpet atop the temple is a wonderful depiction of proclaiming the gospel.*) Have a couple of children work together to put on the pieces for the next go-through, and so on.

## Revealing a Secret Message or Riddle

**Method 1** - Select a secret message (*scripture, quote, song title, theme of the day*) or riddle. Write or paste it to a large sheet of poster board. Cut puzzle pieces from cover picture (*artwork should have something to do with the secret message*) that is the same size as the poster board containing the secret message. Attach the puzzle pieces to the secret message poster board with tape or sticky tack. As you go through the singing period, tell the children that by their **excellent participation**, you will choose children to come up and uncover the hidden message. Choose a couple of children at a time to come up and remove pieces of the puzzle. (*The pieces need to be small enough so that when removed they do not reveal too much of the hidden message too soon.*) Have the children try to guess what the hidden message is. Continue the singing until the message is correctly guessed or until all of the puzzle pieces are removed. (*You might offer a small prize to the person who correctly identifies the hidden message.*)

I Belong to the  
Church  
of  
Jesus Christ  
of  
Latter-Day Saints

I am a  
Child  
of God

I want to  
be a  
Missionary  
NOW

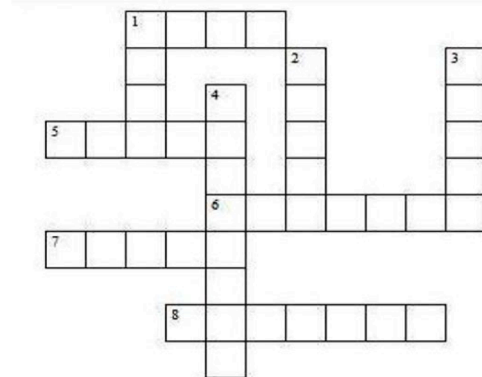
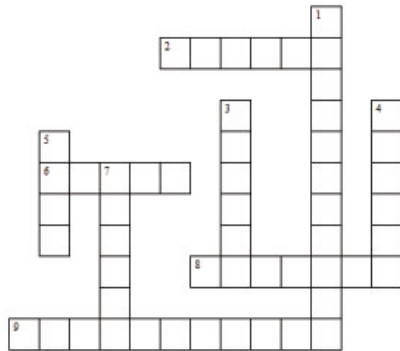
**Method 2** – Use the same basic instructions as above in Method 1, but assign a song to each of the puzzle pieces. Have the children take turns removing a puzzle piece to choose which song will be sung next. The children may try to guess the Hidden Message as the puzzle piece is removed or after the song is sung. (*Good for a **Choose and Review** session or when preparing for a program. The Hidden Message could be the theme of the program.*)

**Any of these ideas could be adapted for use with a 3-D puzzle or model. I have also seen wooden blocks be built into a large tower or bridge or temple. Just be careful to match the activity to the singing goals and not let the game usurp all of the time so that no singing or music learning is accomplished.**

## Word Puzzles

**Crossword Puzzle** – Use this idea for a **Choose and Review** of one particular song.

Take keywords from the 4-8 phrases of the song, number them in phrase order, and draw a crossword puzzle created from them onto a large piece of paper or directly onto the chalkboard. (*Optional: provide numbered clues or word bank*) Have the pianist play the first phrase of the song. That could be the first clue for keyword #1. If they need more clues you could offer a synonym or short clue, or sing the phrase leaving out the keyword. Have the child who guesses correctly come up and write the word onto the crossword puzzle. Continue playing and singing until the entire puzzle is completed and the song is reviewed to satisfaction.



**Word Scramble** – Place word strips or keywords in random fashion all over the chalkboard or around the room or under the seats of the children. Sing and review the song several times allowing the children time to try to put the words in the correct order on the chalkboard. If they do not get it right the first time, ask other children to come up to fix it. Continue singing and rearranging until everything is placed and sung correctly.