

MOTHER'S DAY PUZZLE CARD



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Create a personalized puzzle to piece together a thoughtful gift for Mother's Day.

RECOMMENDED AGE/SKILL LEVEL:

Recommended for 3+. Adult assistance might be needed for cutting.

MATERIALS

- Clean, smooth cardboard -- Use what you have or what can be found in your recycling.
- Picture, magazine cutout, or hand-drawn image (as in sample)–if hand-drawing your image, printer paper works well.
- Ruler or measuring instrument
- Pencil
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers or paint pens
- Scissors (smaller/sharper scissors will work best)
Optional: X-acto knife and cutting mat
- White glue and/or glue stick
Optional: Mod Podge
- Craft paintbrush



INSTRUCTIONS

- Cut cardboard to your preferred size and trim edges as needed.
- Cut magazine image, photo, or drawing paper to the same size as the puzzle.
- Either hold the cardboard and paper/image together and trim around the edges, or trace the cardboard outline onto the back of the image, photo, or paper, then cut.

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INSTRUCTIONS



- If you are drawing your own image, design and complete it before moving on.
- Smooth glue all over the cardboard and press your image down flat.
 - If you are using white glue, drizzle it evenly over the cardboard and use a tool such as a paintbrush to spread it smoothly across the surface.
- Let the glue dry.
 - **Tip:** Place a heavy book (or stack of books) on top of your project so the glue dries evenly and securely. You may place a piece of parchment or wax paper between the book and puzzle to protect the book from glue overspill.
- Once dried, trim any paper edges that are hanging over.



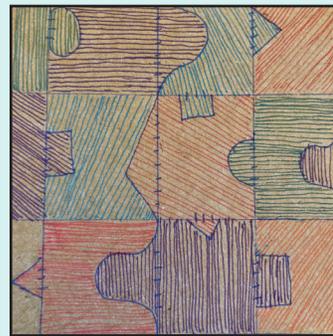
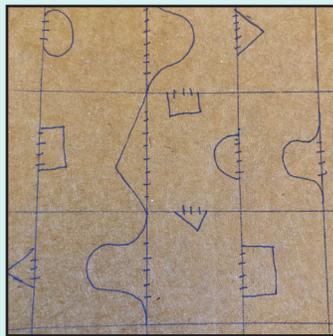
- Lacquer your puzzle: Spread a thin, even coat of Mod Podge across the entire front surface using a craft paintbrush. Let it dry. Gently go over the edges, as they will likely warp a bit.
 - **DIY lacquer recipe:** If you do not have Mod Podge, mix together 1 teaspoon of white glue to 1 tablespoon of water. Make sure to wash your kitchen tools right away.
- Allow the lacquer coat to dry by placing your project on a raised surface, making sure the edges are not touching anything.

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- Turn the puzzle cardboard side up. Measure out a square grid with a pencil. Squares should be even, but their size is up to you, based on the size of your cardboard.
- Once your grid is marked, add squiggle lines and shapes to the edges of your squares to transform them into puzzle pieces.

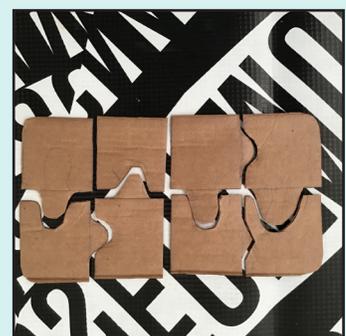
Notes:

- Shapes with straight lines will be easier to cut.
- Add hash marks to the grid lines you do not want to cut.



We have added colors to help you visualize what the pieces will look like.

- Cut your pieces out.
 - If you have a mat and X-acto knife, set your mat down and carefully use the X-acto knife to cut out each piece.
 - Start with any straight lines in your puzzle to make your cardboard pieces smaller and easier to manage.
 - Cut slowly—extra cuts will show up on the front of the puzzle.
 - If you are using scissors, some pieces may bend as you cut—simply bend them back into place after you finish.



If you want to make your puzzle pieces simpler as you cut them, no problem.

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- Gently bend any pieces of cardboard flat.
- Erase any leftover pencil marks
- Test out your puzzle then prepare it for gifting by placing the pieces in a small box, bag or envelope.



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