

Picture Puzzles Scavenger Hunt Organization Template Explanation

Please note that this document works with our Picture Puzzles video - be sure to check out our Youtube video for more information!

This document walks you through how each method works in greater detail in addition to the video and the Picture Puzzles Organization Template - Tables PDF.

What is the Scavenger Hunt?

This is a way to interact with the puzzle in a more exciting way! You will have the 'scavengers' answer questions about a certain topic. The possible locations for the puzzle pieces.

How do I set up the Scavenger Hunt?

First, you'll need a puzzle - check out our video on how to make a homemade puzzle! We recommend no more than 25 pieces for this scavenger hunt, with the ideal range being 4-16 pieces. The amount of pieces should be determined by the child/children's attention span and age.

We provide 2 methods for developing the scavenger hunt, both of which are explained in detail below.

How does these instructions work?

All the steps have been listed out with the corresponding tables. As more is explained, new changes in the table will be highlighted in blue.

Where do I print the tables?

Use the Picture Puzzles Organization Template - Tables PDF on teaching-tiny-tots.com or this Google Doc link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_ApTmEFaYYouSBwCnaZhnKmLHCD531B8-CNHsp6wesl/edit?usp=sharing

Method One: Developing the Clues One Step at a Time

This method uses 3 tables to develop your scavenger hunt. This method is good if developing this scavenger seems confusing because you'll be putting all your information together at the end, rather than all at once.

Step One: Analyzing the Tables

This method uses 3 tables to sort and display your information. To find how many rows you'll be using, take the number of puzzle pieces and subtract one. If you have a 4 piece puzzle, use rows Start through 3. If you have a 6 piece puzzle, use rows Start through 5. This pattern applies to all puzzles.

Table One

Piece #	Place 1	Place 2	Place 3	Place 4
Start				

Table Two

Question #:			
Answer 1	Answer 2	Answer 3	Answer 4

Table Three

Piece #	Question	Correct Answer	Next Piece's Location
Start			

Tables One and Two display the questions and the two-part answers. Table One focuses on the location answers (correct and incorrect) for all puzzle pieces. Table Two focuses on the themed questions and answers for the scavenger hunt. Table Three focuses on the information relevant to finding the puzzle pieces. The tables have a Start - this is the first clue that is given but you will not attach a puzzle piece to this.

Step Two: Filling in the Tables

Now let's begin filling in the tables, starting from Table One. Here we see a row for a single puzzle piece and spaces for 4 place options. Depending on your child/children, you may want to provide 2, 3 or 4 answers. The more answers you provide, the more challenging the scavenger hunt is. Start off simply just listing potential places you can hide your pieces. Often thinking of 'groups' of locations makes the process easier.

Piece #	Place 1	Place 2	Place 3	Place 4
Start	by the coffee pot	by the microwave	by the toaster oven	by the oven

Repeat this for the remaining puzzle pieces. Do not repeat locations because you do not want to have the scavengers finding puzzle pieces whether they got the problems right or wrong! If you have a 4 piece puzzle you're hiding, you want 8, 12, or 16 places listed, but only 4 correct locations. The last puzzle piece will not have any locations because the locations refer to where the next puzzle piece will be found.

Piece #	Place 1	Place 2	Place 3	Place 4
Start	by the coffee pot	by the microwave	by the toaster oven	by the oven
1	under the office chair	under the sewing chair	under the barstool	under the breakfast table chair
2	by the master bedroom bed	by the guest room bed	by sister's bed	by brother's bed
3	atop coffee table	atop office desk	atop dining room table	atop homework table

Next, select the places where you are going to actually hide the pieces. When actually hiding the pieces, things get a slightly more complicated, but for the time being, simply choose which locations are best suited. Don't pick a place with a lot of objects, or objects that could cause harm to the child/children. They may not find the piece right away, so be prepared for them to mess with the area a bit. Avoid areas near sharp, heavy, and fragile objects, or heat.

Piece #	Place 1	Place 2	Place 3	Place 4
Start	by the coffee pot	by the microwave	by the toaster oven	by the oven
1	under the office chair	under the sewing chair	under the barstool	under the breakfast table chair
2	by the master bedroom bed	by the guest room bed	by sister's bed	by brother's bed
3	atop coffee table	atop office desk	atop dining room table	atop homework table

Now fill in Table Two. Table Two consists of the questions and themed answers for the scavenger hunt. Starting off with just the questions might be easier. Themes can be different school subjects, holidays, about certain people (such as questions about you or your child), specific locations, etc.

1: What day is your birthday?			

Use the same number of answers as you did for the locations in Table One. If each puzzle piece had 3 locations listed, give 3 answer options.

1: What day is your birthday?			
Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1

Repeat for the remaining puzzle pieces. You can highlight the correct answer for convenience if desired.

Start: What day is your birthday?			
Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1
1: What is your favorite color?			
Red	Yellow	Green	Blue
2: What is your favorite food?			
Pizza	Chicken Nuggets	French Fries	Hot Dogs
3: What is your favorite holiday?			
Valentine's Day	Fourth of July	Halloween	Christmas

Now you fill in Table Three. This consists of only the correct answers. Start by plugging in the information from Table Two.

Piece #	Question	Correct Answer	Next Piece's Location
1	What day is your birthday?	Mar 8	

Then fill in the information from Table One. When hiding the pieces, Piece 2 will be hiding in the location from Piece 1's row, hence the wording 'next' piece's location.

Piece #	Question	Correct Answer	Next Piece's Location
1	What day is your birthday?	Mar 8	by the coffee pot

Repeat for the remaining puzzle pieces. Table Three doesn't include a space for the wrong answers and locations, so when creating the clues keep Tables One and Two available.

Piece #	Question	Correct Answer	Next Piece's Location
Start	What day is your birthday?	Mar 8	by the coffee pot
1	What is your favorite color?	Blue	under a breakfast table chair
2	What is your favorite food?	Pizza	by the guest room bed
3	What is your favorite holiday?	Halloween	atop the dining room table

Step Three: Creating the Clues

Now that you have all of your information, you can create the clues to hide with the puzzle pieces. Below is an example of a clue you'll create.

What day is your birthday?

your next puzzle piece will be...

Jan 9 ----> by the microwave

Mar 8 ----> by the coffee pot

Oct 29 ----> by the toaster oven

Dec 1 ----> by the oven

Here we have this clue and the tables showing where all of the information came from. The colors correspond, so anything highlighted in green comes from the tables with green, etc.

What day is your birthday?

if your birthday is on... your next puzzle piece will be...

Jan 9 ----> by the microwave

Mar 8 ----> by the coffee pot

Oct 29 ----> by the toaster oven

Dec 1 ----> by the oven

Piece #	Place 1	Place 2	Place 3	Place 4
Start	by the coffee pot	by the microwave	by the toaster oven	by the oven

Start: What day is your birthday?			
Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1

Piece #	Question	Correct Answer	Next Piece's Location
Start	What day is your birthday?	Mar 8	by the coffee pot

Step Four: Hiding the Pieces

Now, hiding the pieces is the last step! Your last puzzle piece will not have a clue. Put your first question in a place where your 'scavengers' are guaranteed to find it. Then, start hiding your pieces. Referring to Table 3 is best when hiding the pieces. Continue until all of the pieces are hidden!

Piece #	Question	Correct Answer	Next Piece's Location
Start	What day is your birthday?	Mar 8	by the coffee pot
1	What is your favorite color?	Blue	under a breakfast table chair
2	What is your favorite food?	Pizza	by the guest room bed
3	What is your favorite holiday?	Halloween	atop the dining room table

For this puzzle, the first piece will be hidden by the coffee pot. The second piece will be hidden under a breakfast table chair. The third piece will be hidden by the guest room bed, and the fourth piece will be hidden atop the dining room table. When hiding the pieces, it's easier to simply use the furthest right column (highlighted in green) as a checklist when hiding the pieces and clues.

Method Two: Developing the Clues One at a Time

If using three tables is confusing or inconvenient for you, we also have an all-in-one table! This method develops all the steps at once, which means you'll be planning out each clue at a time rather than each step individually.

Step One: Analyzing the Table

This method uses one table to display all your information. To find how many rows you'll be using, take the number of puzzle pieces and subtract one. If you have a 4 piece puzzle, use rows Start through 3. If you have a 6 piece puzzle, use rows Start through 5. This pattern applies to all puzzles.

Table Four

Piece #	Question:				
	Answer 1	Answer 2	Answer 3	Answer 4	next puzzle piece location
	Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4	

Table Four has 11 boxes of information per clue.

Piece #	This is where the number of puzzle pieces/clues you'll have is located. <-----	Question: Above is where you'll list out all the themed questions for your scavenger hunt.
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Answer 1	Answer 2	Answer 3	Answer 4
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Above is where you'll write out the answers to the themed questions. This is like Table Two.

Below is where you'll write the corresponding locations. You'll write the correct location underneath the correct answer. This is like Table One.

Location 1	Location 2	Location 3	Location 4
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next puzzle piece location

Above, you'll write out the correct location from the Location row. This will make it easier to keep track of where you are hiding the pieces.

Step Two: Filling in the Table

Start with filling out the themed question for the clue. Themes can be different school subjects, holidays, about certain people (such as questions about you or your child), specific locations, etc.

Start	What day is your birthday?				
					next puzzle piece location

Next, fill out the answers for the themed question. Depending on your child/children, you may want to provide 2, 3 or 4 answers. The more answers you provide, the more challenging the scavenger hunt is. You can highlight the correct answer for convenience if desired.

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	

Then fill out possible locations to hide the puzzle piece and clue. Often thinking of 'groups' of locations makes the process easier. Do not repeat locations because you do not want to have the scavengers finding puzzle pieces whether they got the problems right or wrong! If you have a 4 piece puzzle you're hiding, you want 8, 12, or 16 places listed, but only 4 correct locations. The last puzzle piece will not have any locations because the locations refer to where the next puzzle piece will be found.

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	
	by the coffee pot	by the microwave	by the toaster oven	by the oven	

Then choose a location for the puzzle piece to be hidden. Don't pick a place with a lot of objects, or objects that could cause harm to the child/children. They may not find the piece right away, so be prepared for them to mess with the area a bit. Avoid areas near sharp, heavy, and fragile objects, or heat.

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	
	by the coffee pot	by the microwave	by the toaster oven	by the oven	

If desired, adjust your table accordingly, meaning that the correct answer and location are in the same column. If working in pen, simply highlight the correct answers for convenience.

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	
	by the microwave	by the coffee pot	by the toaster oven	by the oven	

Lastly, copy the correct hiding location into the furthest right column. This can be used as a quick guideline/checklist when hiding the pieces.

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	by the coffee pot
	by the microwave	by the coffee pot	by the toaster oven	by the oven	

Repeat with the remaining puzzle pieces. If you'd rather, you can use Method One's strategy while filling out Table Four. (Locations then Questions and Answers then putting them together)

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	by the coffee pot
	by the microwave	by the coffee pot	by the toaster oven	by the oven	
1	What is your favorite color?				
	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	under a breakfast table chair
	under the office chair	under the sewing chair	under the barstool	under a breakfast table chair	
2	What is your favorite food?				
	Pizza	Chicken Nuggets	French Fries	Hot Dogs	by the guest room bed
	by the guest room bed	by the master bedroom bed	by sister's bed	by brother's bed	
3	What is your favorite holiday?				
	Valentine's Day	Fourth of July	Halloween	Christmas	atop dining room table
	atop coffee table	atop office desk	atop dining room table	atop homework table	

Step Three: Creating the Clues

Now that you have all of your information, you can create the clues to hide with the puzzle pieces. Below is an example of a clue you'll create.

<p>What day is your birthday?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">your next puzzle piece will be...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 9 ----> by the microwave</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mar 8 ----> by the coffee pot</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oct 29 ----> by the toaster oven</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 1 ----> by the oven</p>
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Here we have this clue and the table showing where all of the information came from. The colors correspond, so anything highlighted in green comes from the tables with green, etc.

What day is your birthday?	
if your birthday is on...	your next puzzle piece will be...
Jan 9	---> by the microwave
Mar 8	---> by the coffee pot
Oct 29	---> by the toaster oven
Dec 1	---> by the oven

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	by the coffee pot
	by the microwave	by the coffee pot	by the toaster oven	by the oven	

Step Four: Hiding the Pieces

Now, hiding the pieces is the last step! Your last puzzle piece will not have a clue. Put your first question in a place where your 'scavengers' are guaranteed to find it. Then, start hiding your pieces. Continue until all of the pieces are hidden! The first piece will be by the coffee pot, the second under the breakfast table chair, the third by the guest room bed, and the last piece atop the dining room table.

Start	What day is your birthday?				
	Jan 9	Mar 8	Oct 29	Dec 1	by the coffee pot
	by the microwave	by the coffee pot	by the toaster oven	by the oven	
1	What is your favorite color?				
	Red	Yellow	Green	Blue	under a breakfast table chair
	under the office chair	under the sewing chair	under the barstool	under a breakfast table chair	
2	What is your favorite food?				
	Pizza	Chicken Nuggets	French Fries	Hot Dogs	by the guest room bed
	by the guest room bed	by the master bedroom bed	by sister's bed	by brother's bed	
3	What is your favorite holiday?				
	Valentine's Day	Fourth of July	Halloween	Christmas	atop dining room table
	atop coffee table	atop office desk	atop dining room table	atop homework table	