

Laura Candler

Just Add Task Cards

Monster Mix-up

Learning Game for Any Subject Area

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Monster Mix-up Learning Game

by Laura Candler

Monster Mix-up is a fun learning game for reviewing content or practicing skills in any subject area. To customize the game, just add your own task cards! During the game, players try to be the first to assemble a complete monster puzzle. Players earn puzzle pieces for correctly solving problems or answering questions on the task cards. All game materials have generic directions and clipart to make them work in any subject area. This means that you only need to print and prepare the game materials once, and then you can use them over and over throughout the year! Monster Mix-up can be played with partners, in teams, or in centers. Black and white and color versions of the game materials are included, so print only what you need.

Advanced Preparation

Print one set of game materials for each team of students. If you plan to use the same game repeatedly throughout the year, laminate the materials after printing them. You'll need one Monster Mix-up Spinner, one copy of the student directions, and a different monster puzzle for each player. It's best to print the puzzles in color on white cardstock or sturdy paper and laminate them prior to cutting them apart. Write the number of each puzzle on the backs of all its pieces and write the same number on an envelope or small storage bag. Place all 10 pieces inside. That way if the pieces are found on the floor later, you can put them back where they belong. If you print the black and white versions of the game materials, color the monster puzzles or have your students color them before cutting them apart. Or print the blank puzzle on page 16 and have your students create their own monster puzzles!

Glue the directions onto the front of a sturdy envelope and store the materials inside. In addition to the printable materials, your students will need dry erase boards, digital "boogie boards," or scrap paper on which to work out the problems or record their answers.

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Customize Monster Mix-up by Adding Task Cards

Monster Mix-up is a part of my customizable "Just Add Task Cards" product line, so it does not include prepared task cards. Before you introduce the game to your students, you'll need to locate a set of task cards or create your own. There are thousands of task card sets on TeachersPayTeachers, but if you don't want to purchase a set, you can make your own using index cards. Number all cards sequentially, and write one problem or one question on the front of each card. Write the answers on the backs of the cards or create a separate answer key. You'll need at least 20 cards, but if the problems or questions can be answered quickly, you may need more.

Parts of Speech	
#1	What are the common nouns in this sentence?
The duck built its nest in the tall grass next to Johnson Pond.	
#1	duck, nest, grass

Task Cards

Check out my [Task Cards Pinterest board](#) to find links to a variety of task cards that can be used with Monster Mix-up. You'll even find some freebies there! Click the underlined link above or the image on the left to take a look.

Where to Find Task Cards

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Introduce Monster Mix-up to Your Students

Demonstrate Monster Mix-up for the class before placing it in a math center or having students play in teams. Display the directions and ask a few students to model the game as you read the directions aloud. Explain that the role of Leader will rotate for each round, but the Leader also participates as a player. If your students have not used a homemade spinner, demonstrate how to do so. Also, suggest that they count their monster puzzle pieces before the game starts to be sure they have all 10 of them.

The directions assume that the task cards will have a separate answer key, but if the answers are on the backs of the cards or if they have QR codes, be sure your students know what to do. For example, if the cards have answers on the backs, they will need to stack the task cards face up or place them in an envelope and slide each card out one at a time.

Depending on the availability of materials, students can play in groups of 2, 3, or 4. When you hand out the game materials, designate a student on each team to be the first Leader. While students are working, especially when they are still learning how to play the game, move about the room providing help to students who need assistance. One of the most important features of the game is the way group discussion is regulated to optimize learning. Students are not allowed to talk while responding to the task card in Step 1; however, after all answers are checked in Step 2, team members are encouraged to discuss their responses. Before starting the next round, it's important for everyone in the group to understand how to solve the problem or answer a similar question. If they rush through the game without discussing the answers, the game becomes a competition more than a learning activity. If this is a new concept for your students, you will probably need to monitor their interactions closely at first.

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Monster Mix-up

Materials

Monster Mix-up Spinner, 1 monster puzzle per player, dry erase boards and markers, pencil, paper clip, task cards, answer key

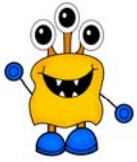
Game Set Up

- Place the spinner in the center of the playing area. Shuffle the task cards, and place the cards and the answer key face down near the spinner.
- Each player needs all 10 pieces that make up one monster puzzle. Players mix up their pieces and place them beside the playing area. During the game, each player tries to earn puzzle pieces by correctly responding to the task cards.

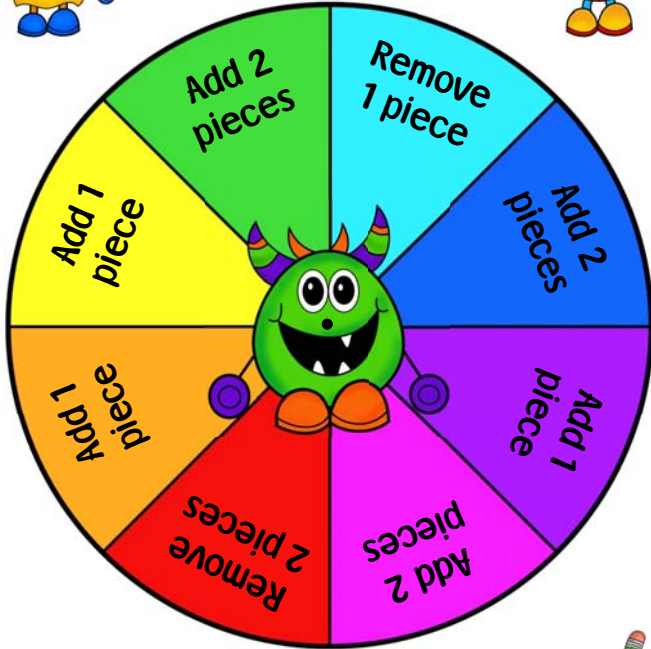
Directions

- The first Leader turns over the top card and reads the problem or question aloud. All players, including the Leader, solve the problem or answer the question on their dry erase boards without talking.
- The Leader asks everyone to show their answers, and he or she checks them with the key. The group discusses the responses to make sure everyone understands the answer or solution.
- Everyone who has the correct answer takes a turn spinning the spinner. Players add or remove pieces of their own monster puzzles according to the spinner directions.
- Rotate the role of Leader to the left for each round.
- Play until someone completes his or her puzzle. If time runs out, the winner is the person with the most puzzle pieces.

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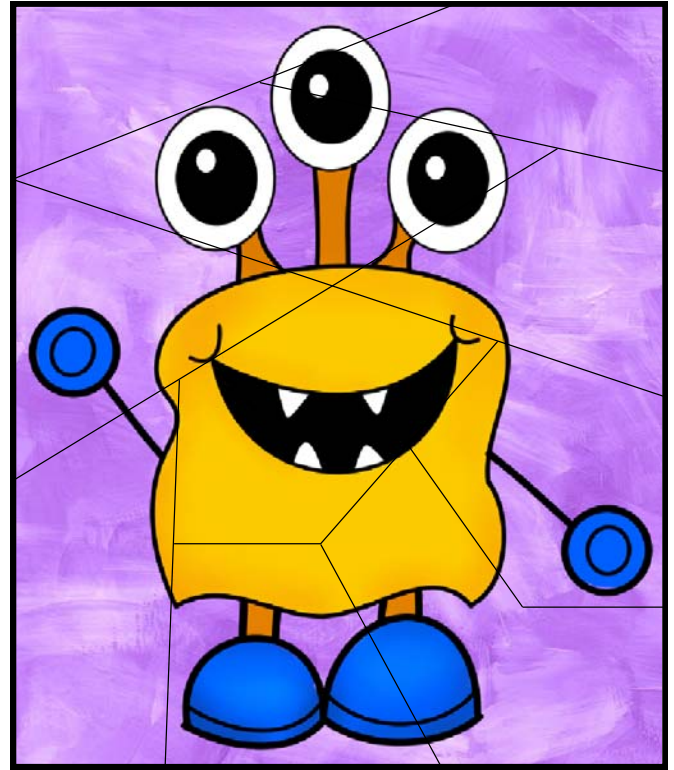
Monster Mix-up Spinner



Directions: To use the spinner, you'll need a paper clip and a pencil. Put the paper clip down with one end over the center dot. Put the pencil point down inside the paper clip and hold the pencil in place. Flick the paper clip. It will spin around the end of the pencil and point to one section on the spinner.

Monster Puzzle #1

Cut out the entire puzzle around the outside of the rectangle. Then carefully cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the straight lines. Mix up the pieces and place them in a pile to use during the game.



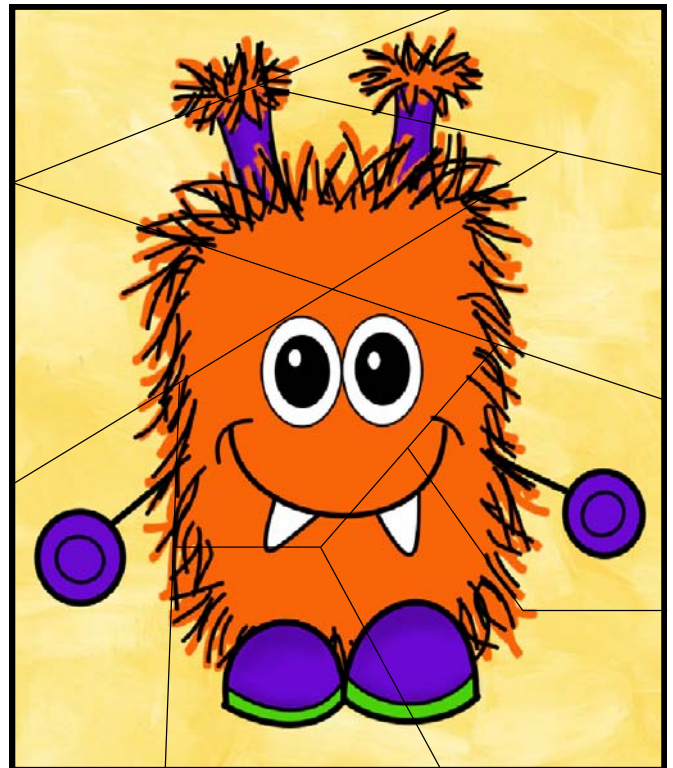
Monster Puzzle #2

Cut out the entire puzzle around the outside of the rectangle. Then carefully cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the straight lines. Mix up the pieces and place them in a pile to use during the game.



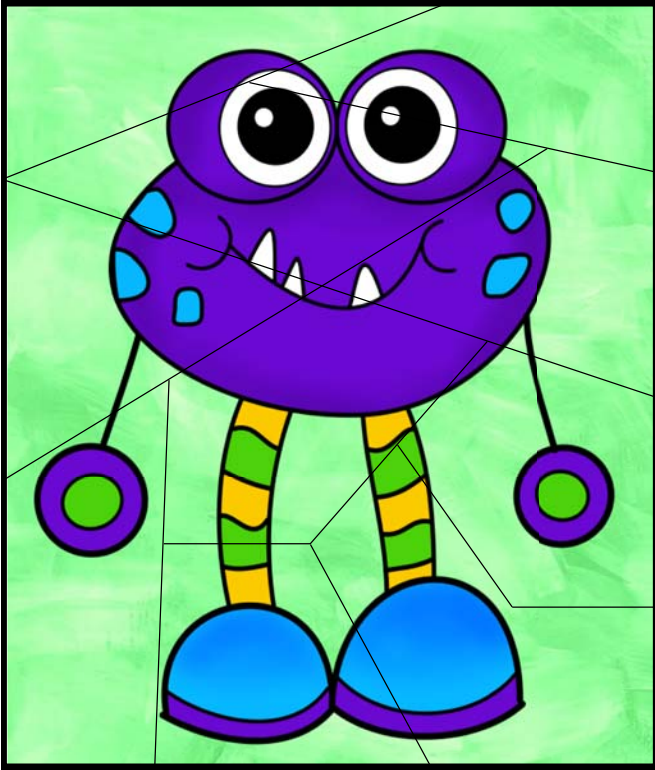
Monster Puzzle #3

Cut out the entire puzzle around the outside of the rectangle. Then carefully cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the straight lines. Mix up the pieces and place them in a pile to use during the game.



Monster Puzzle #4

Cut out the entire puzzle around the outside of the rectangle. Then carefully cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the straight lines. Mix up the pieces and place them in a pile to use during the game.



Monster Mix-up

Materials

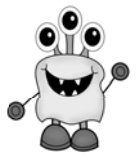
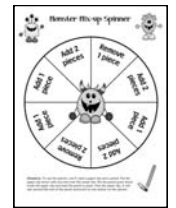
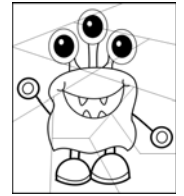
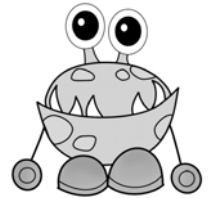
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Game Set Up

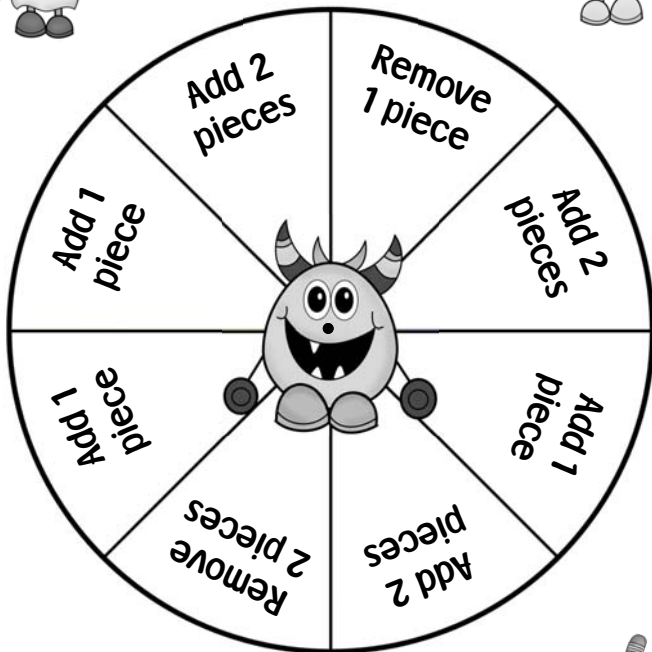
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Monster Mix-up Spinner

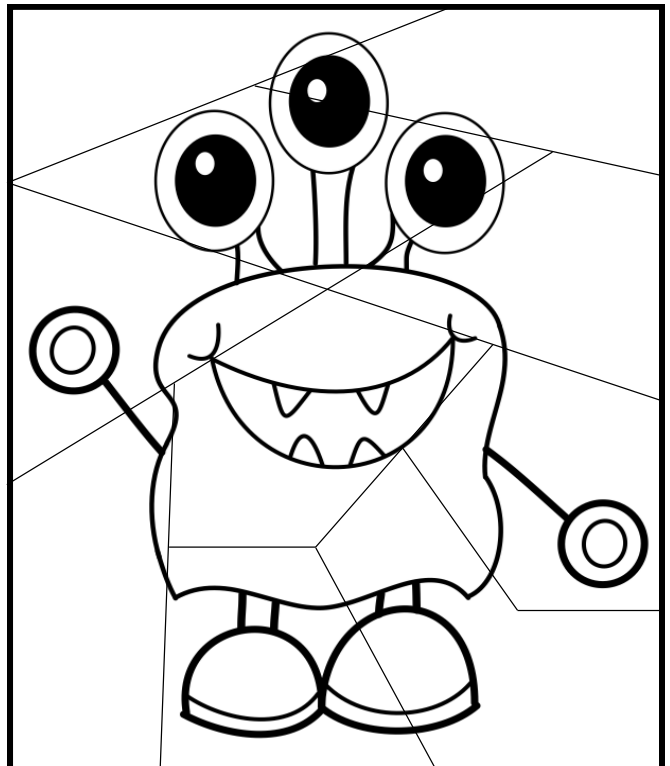


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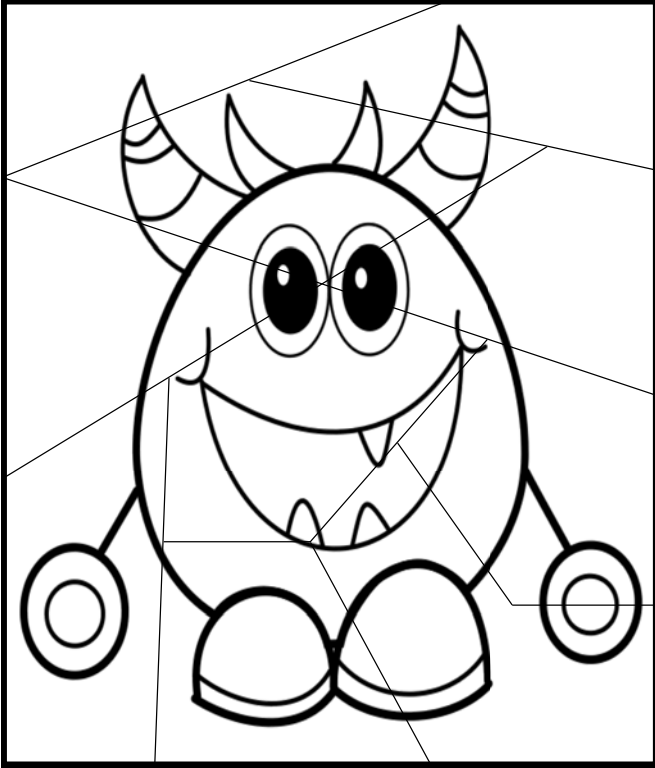
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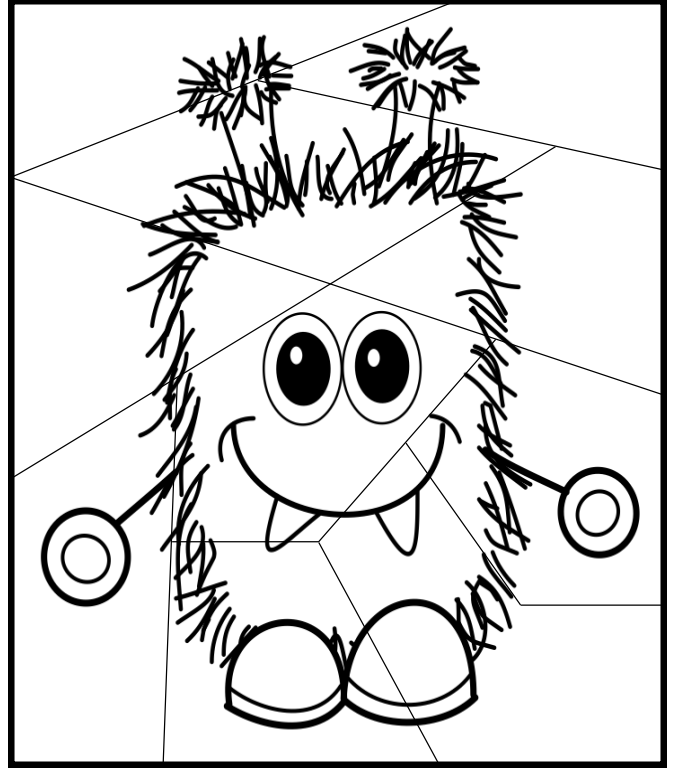
Monster Puzzle #2

Cut out the entire puzzle around the outside of the rectangle. Then carefully cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the straight lines. Mix up the pieces and place them in a pile to use during the game.



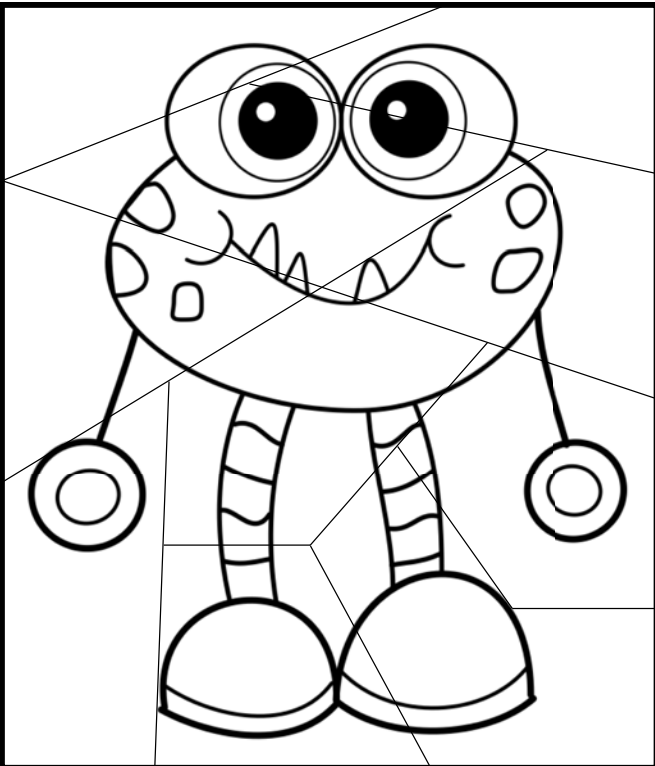
Monster Puzzle #3

Cut out the entire puzzle around the outside of the rectangle. Then carefully cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the straight lines. Mix up the pieces and place them in a pile to use during the game.



Monster Puzzle #4

Cut out the entire puzzle around the outside of the rectangle. Then carefully cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the straight lines. Mix up the pieces and place them in a pile to use during the game.



Create Your Own Monster Puzzle

Draw and color a monster inside the large rectangular frame. Cut on the thick lines around the edges of the rectangle, and then cut the puzzle into 10 pieces on the thinner straight lines.

