Math Puzzles
By
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Goal: To reinforce multiples in an upper elementary classroom.

Materials:
63 piece puzzle          permanent markers           Foamboard          X-acto knife

Activity:
Put the puzzle together on a piece of Foamboard cut to size with an x-acto knife. Use a second piece of Foamboard to sandwich the puzzle and flip it over. You will see that the pieces are arranged in rows when the puzzle is put together. Put the multiples of the numbers starting with 2 across the back of the puzzle on the first row. Put one number on each piece. You will be able to put the multiples through 18 across the puzzle pieces using one row for the multiples of each number. When you are finished you will have all the multiples for the numbers 2 through 8. Your highest number will be 72. Of course there will be some numbers that repeat. They become a challenge to the students.

When you have finished putting your items on the back of the puzzle, take the puzzle apart and put it into a ziplock bag. Number your bag and number the inside of the puzzle box with the same numbers for easier clean up. Cut your Foamboard to the size of your puzzles. You will need two pieces of foamboard for each puzzle.

Students will put the puzzles together by using only the information on the back. When the puzzles are completed, students can use the foamboard to make a sandwich and flip the puzzle over to the picture side. This will give an immediate visual reward for a job well done.

Follow-up:
This puzzle technique can be used for other math items that you wish students to sequence. An example would be putting fractions in order from smallest to largest.

Puzzles can be purchased at The Dollar Store, Big Lots, or other stores like that. Foamboard can be purchased at any art or office supply store.