

**TITLE: Cooperation Square**

**Recommended Grade Levels:** 2-5

**Applicable Character Traits:** Cooperation

**Objective:**

Students will participate in a cooperation activity and then discuss the elements of cooperation.

**Time Frame:** (Approximately 30 minutes)

Approximately how long the entire lesson should take to complete. It's nice to let the teacher know, so you are both on the same page. Be sure to check with the teacher in advance as to how much time is allotted for the lesson, and keep an eye on the clock.

**Materials/ Preparation:**

- Character Trait Statement (attached)
- Print out onto cardstock the attached square puzzle. Print as many squares as need for groups of 3 to 5 depending on the size of the class. Maybe even print on different colors for each group. Cut out the pieces and put each set in an envelope or plastic baggie.

**Opening Statements:** (5 minutes)

- Greet students and reintroduce yourself.
- Tell students they are going to play a fun game together.
- Ask students if they know the character trait for the month.
- Ask students, What does it mean to show cooperation?
- Read the Character Trait Statement.

**Activities:** (20 minutes)

- Divide students into groups of 3 to 5 or a combination if necessary.
- Each group may work at a table or the floor.
- Explain that the objective of the game is to assemble a square.
- Explain the rules. You may want to write them on the board or put them on the overhead. Remind the students to be *honest* and play by the rules.

Rules:

- No talking is allowed during the game.
- You *may not* take (grab) pieces from the other people in your group.
- You *may not* ask for/ gesture for pieces from other people in your group.
- You *may* voluntarily give a piece to someone in your group.

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- Each group receives a set of pieces to form a square. (Each student should have at least one piece to start with.)
- Students assemble their squares. You may ask one member of the team to write their name on the board when they finish, in order of finishing.
- If it is taking a long time you may give hints on how to assemble the square.
- When everyone is finished have a discussion with the following questions.
  - Was this a fun activity? Why?
  - Was it easy or challenging? Why?
  - Was it frustrating? Why?
  - Do you feel everyone in your group cooperated? If not, why?
  - Did it matter how many people were in the group? Why?
  - How did you communicate without talking?
  - Did you take turns?
  - Did you encourage people to participate and do their best?
  - Did you include people and make them feel needed?
  - How did you handle conflict?
  - Did everyone follow the rules? If not, how did you handle that?

**Wrap up and Reflection:** (5 minutes)

What are the key elements of cooperation that you learned from this activity?

Listening, sharing, taking turns, compromising, doing your part, encouraging others, including everyone.

**Character Trait Statement:****Cooperation**

At EBS we practice Cooperation.

We work together.

We take turns, share, and listen.

We participate and do our best.

We include others and encourage them.

We compromise.

We are good leaders and good followers.



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