

# Just a Bit of a Book

- Take an old book (**science texts or science but a very old, no longer used book**) and cut the pages into triangles (This takes a while, is very therapeutic and you only have to do it one since you can use this activity over and over).
- Mix them up and put them in a box or bag
- Problem (for students):
- Find out as much information as you can about a book.
- Materials: You have access to -but do not necessarily have to limit your use to:
- Part(s) of a book (3-5 cut pieces of various pages)
- Note paper
- Students will work in groups of 4.
- Parameters:
- Put your name on the notebook paper
- From the container in front of the room, select 3-5 pieces of cut up book
- Find out all the information you can about the book using those pieces
- Write down all the information you discover on your notebook paper
- The more information about the book that you have on your notebook paper, the better you will do.
- At the teacher's signal, share your information with your team mates.

- Questions: Answer only those questions assigned to you by your teacher.
- What kind of book is it? Can you figure out the title?
- Which person got the best information on his/her pieces of the book? Explain why
- What
- If you were going to pick your pieces over, and you could see them before you selected, what kind of pieces would you look for?
- \*\*\*\*Note teachers can add as many questions as they wish depending on the aim of the activity
- \*\*\*\*\*You can even do this with individual chapters if you wish to focus on a particular topic

#### Notes to Teachers:

- Store the pieces of book in a coffee can or some other scalable container. Show the cover of the book at the end of the exercise. Not knowing a lot about the book you cut up is ok, however, since scientists rarely have a source for finding out what they “should have got” available to them. Leaving the idea of unanswered questions at the end of the activity is a “real science” concept
- Notice that there is no instruction about what type of information students should search for. Some students will try to find out about the “book” and others will seek information about the “story”.
- It becomes obvious that that no one person can do the assignment with only 3-5 pieces (unless what?)
- It is ok for students to share information. There is nothing in the instructions prohibiting that; neither is it encouraged. That is intentional
- This activity helps mimic the process scientists use when working with complicated problems where collaboration is essential.
- Select a book and cut up to 75 pages into 3 pieces each. (2 triangles and 1 rectangle
- Rule (the only rule) can have no more than 5 pieces of paper at one time
- Job is to find out all you can about the book (generally gives students 20 minutes)
- THIS IS GREAT FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS TOO
- Keep saying there is only one rule. Stand near them holding a large stack
- This is observation, inferences, cooperative learning, collecting data – Individual researchers learn and then they share and learn more
- Can even use a chapter of the text.