

What is Tarsia?

With this software you will easily be able to create, print out, save and exchange customised jigsaws, domino activities and a variety of rectangular card sort activities. The activities created using this software can be presented in printable form, ready to cut out.

Designed for mathematics it can easily be used for other subjects such as Geography since it allows text to be included.

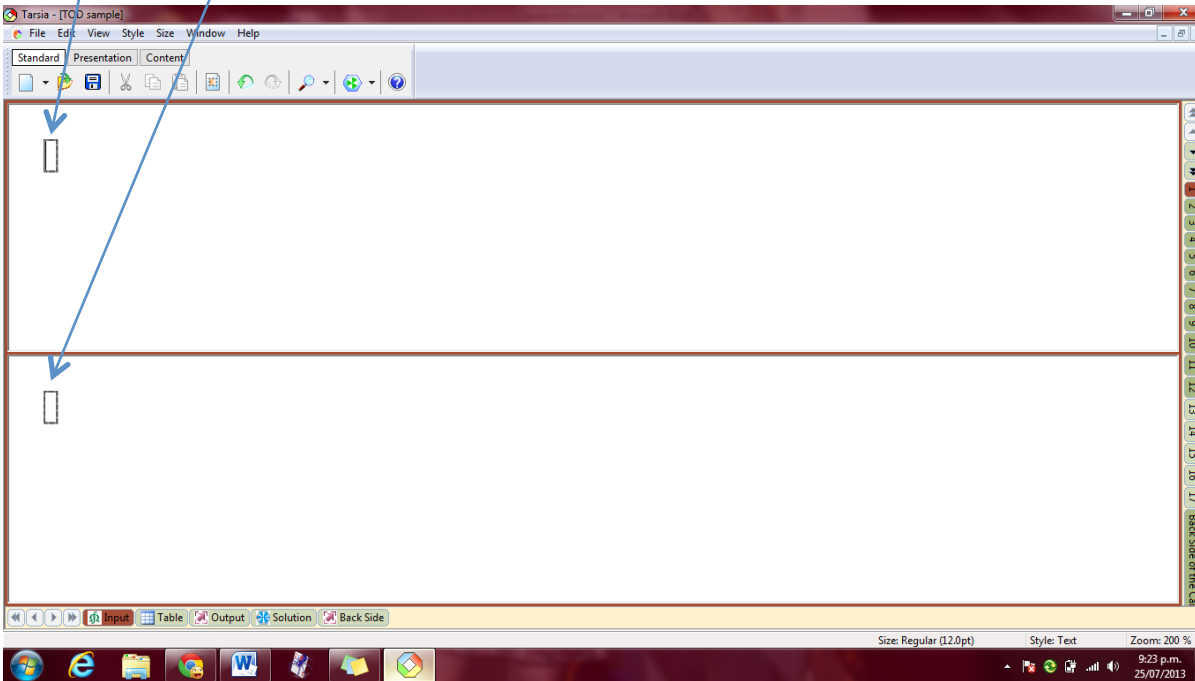
To **Download** the software go to:

http://www.mmlsoft.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4&Itemid=5

1. Scroll down to the second item on the page for "Formulator Tarsia"
2. Click on the "download now"
3. When the green downloading box at the bottom left of your screen is finished counting down, click on "Run". Then click next
4. Then tick I accept
5. then Next x3 (two more tick boxes on offer, please yourself, I left them)
6. then click install
7. then Finish
8. Click the Windows icon (aka the Start button) at the very bottom left of your screen, then click on Tarsia (second to bottom, just above All Programs)
9. Close the opening Tip
10. On the left you have choices:
 - Standard Jigsaw
 - Extended Jigsaw
 - Domino
 - Follow me cards
 - Rectangular cards
 - Matching Rectangular
 - Student Discussion
11. Click on each in turn and watch the Right hand options changing.
12. Then either: go wherever you like, OR follow the steps below

1. Click **Standard Jigsaw** on left side
2. Let your mouse **hover** over each option on the **right hand side** and see how many pieces each puzzle has. Let's do **Standard Rectangular Jigsaw** because it has the least number of pieces (12) so will be quick to make.
3. Then Click **OK**

4. Now it stops being at all intuitive! **Type two matching things in the two small grey boxes** – the boxes get bigger as you type. It could be a term and a definition. You could do question and answer (words or numbers). Another idea is to do a location and then something factual about it eg. “North Island” and “contains 76% of population”. Be aware that the more you type the smaller the font becomes to fit it in the puzzle.



5. **Important:** Later, you'll be annoyed to find your spaces between words removed. So before you type, click the **Style** tab at the top and select **Text**.
6. On the right hand side are a series of numbered tabs. Click on number two and write your second term and definition (or Q&A). Repeat until you have done all 17 of them, (even though this is a 12 piece puzzle there are 17 questions in it – you'll see when you print it).
7. At the bottom of the screen are some tabs. You are currently in the **input** tab. Have a play with Table, Output and Solution
 - **Table** – shows your terms and definitions/Q&As in a table
 - **Output** shows the puzzle ready to print – it's scrambled. Kids can cut it up and solve it – on the right hand side there are four options: **normal, medium, large, larger and simplified.**
 - **Solution** shows the solved puzzle ready to print – on the right hand side there are two options: **full** (12 pieces) and **simplified** (9 pieces). Simplified is a way of differentiating the same puzzle by making an easier version for kids who find it challenging.
8. If you are feeling clever, go back to the **Input** section and click on the tab on the bottom right side: **Backside of the card**. Type something like “My first practice Tarsia puzzle.”
9. Click the **Backside** tab at the bottom of the screen and see how it looks. I think this bit might be useful if you make more than one puzzle, laminate them etc for re-use,

then worry about getting sets mixed up. Each set could have the name of that topic etc on the back.

10. **When finished** – or at any stage, click **File, Save As** and save your work in a place you can open it next time.
11. Ready to **make another** puzzle/a different kind of puzzle?
12. Click **File** and **New** and knock yourself out. Later, you can come back to your first (saved) puzzle by clicking **File** and **Open**.
13. To print, click **File** and **Print** etc

Go back to step 12. Look at the difference between Standard Jigsaw and Extended Jigsaw = same number of pieces but so much harder because no obvious border. (Another differentiation option.)

Three kinds of differentiation in one puzzle

1. Do an extended hexagonal jigsaw. Only fill in tabs 1-30. This gives you blank borders. Save it as e.g. "Geography hexagon blank borders".
2. Now fill in the d1-d12 cards – these are unmatched questions or statements that will go on the border (d for diameter?) making it a fiendishly difficult puzzle. Save it a second time e.g. "Geography hexagon fiendishly difficult".
3. Click on the **Solution** tab (bottom screen) and select **simplified** (right side of screen). See how this gives you the six middle pieces as a starting point? You can print this and then give kids the cards to go around it – either from the blank borders (easier version) or from the fiendishly difficult version.

Other ideas:

- ✓ Substitute a few blank cards into a set and have kids make up their own Q&A and swap with another group.
- ✓ Print out the **Table** version of your puzzle (table tab is at bottom screen). This is a takeaway of the answers/info being learned.
- ✓ Even better, blank out some of the spaces so kids have to record the answers as they solve the puzzle.

Bonus!

1. **Change font:** Click on **Style** tab, select **Other**, then change font
2. **Change to a different puzzle type** – first make sure you've saved your original or you'll lose it.
Click File, Properties, Change document type. Save the new puzzle under a **different name**. (As long as you save both kinds the alarming warning about *irreversible action... some stuff may be lost...* is not a problem.)