

Activity: Community Pieces

When working in urban schools, it is important to know the context that we teach in. We should seek to get to know our students and communities for what they are and not what we want or assume them to be. We should know what is important to our students and their communities as well interact with our students while in their communities. Having students create a community puzzle will help us not only learn more about our students realities, but we can also learn how all the pieces of their communities fit together and how we can situate ourselves in their communities throughout the school year.

In Your Classroom:

1. Make copies of puzzle pieces and distribute to students
2. Have students write a reflection on each puzzle piece by completing the stem.
3. After students have completed stems, have students cut puzzle pieces out.
4. Have students work in small groups to share their reflections and make connections with their puzzle pieces.
5. Allow students to meet and make connections until the class has created a big class puzzle that present what connects them with others in their class.

Content Connection: These puzzle pieces can also be used to introduce or review content for any subject area. Just review the text and have students connect. The possibilities are endless when we stretch our imaginations!

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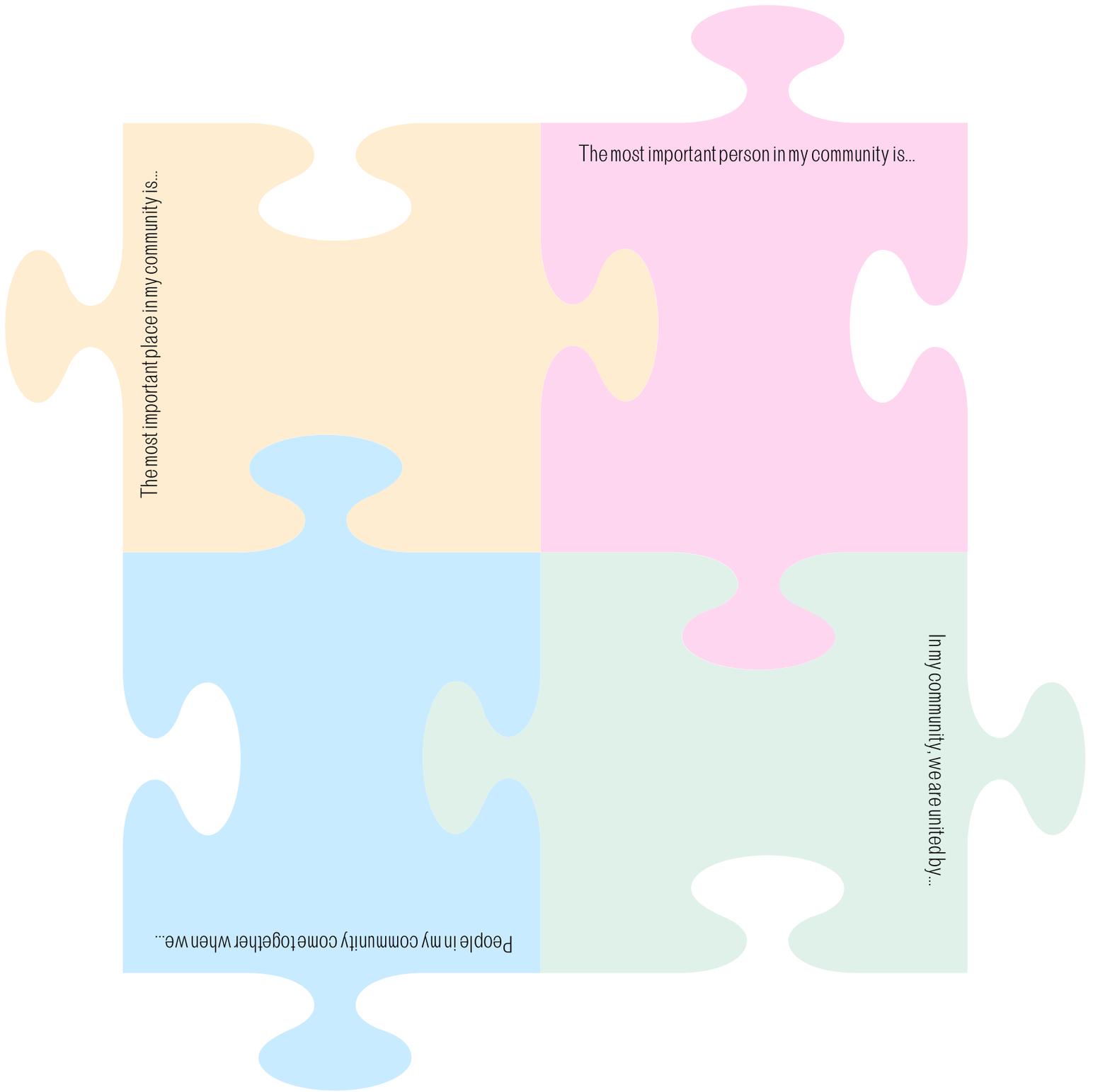
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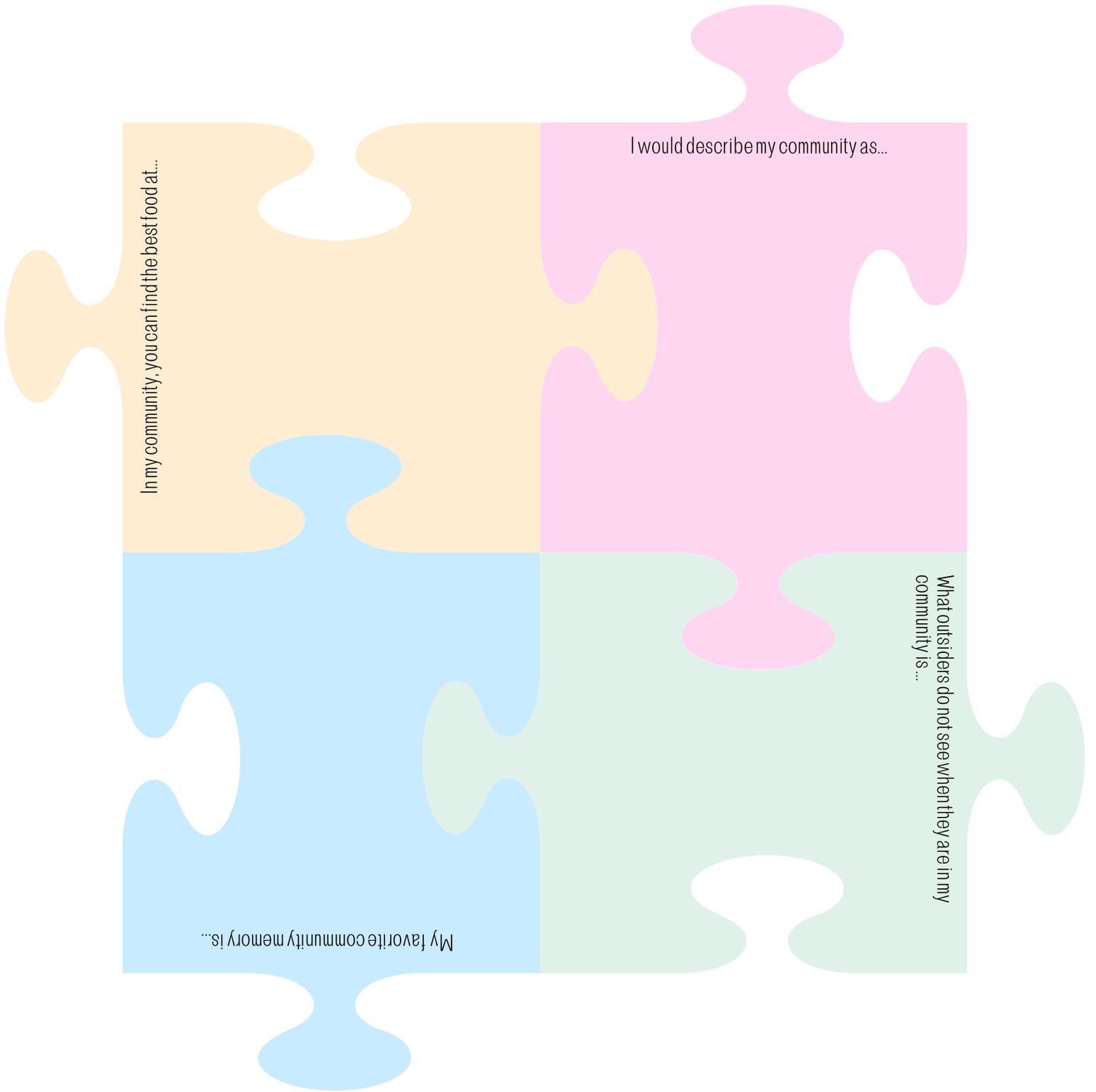
The most important place in my community is...

The most important person in my community is...

People in my community come together when we...

In my community, we are united by...





In my community, you can find the best food at...

I would describe my community as...

My favorite community memory is...

What outsiders do not see when they are in my community is ...

