Introduction:
Solving a brainteaser can be loads of fun and extremely rewarding—especially if it is tough and causes some hard thinking. This makes that “Aha!” moment when you finally find the solution so much more satisfying. Brainteasers are also a great way to exercise problem solving skills and get creative juices flowing. This kit is designed to introduce students to the joy of brainteaser solving so that they are ready to approach real world problems with confidence and ease.

Quick Play:
1. Match each brainteaser with its Object Card and 3 Hint Cards.
2. Select a brainteaser and place the three Hint Cards face down (don’t peek at them).
3. Read the Object Card, put on your thinking cap and try to solve the brainteaser!

Some Playing Tips:
Players should have fun exploring and trying to solve the brainteasers on their own. Here are a few of our recommendations about how to make this the most successful and rewarding learning experience.
1. Make sure that you fully understand the problem. Restate the object in your own words—this will help you to visualize and more clearly understand the challenge.
2. Study all of the brainteaser pieces carefully. Look at how they are similar or different, explore size and shape. You might even want to list your observations on a piece of paper.
3. Attempt to solve the brainteaser. You may have several ideas for how the brainteaser can be solved. Cover them all a try! As you play with the pieces it is likely that you will learn new things and get further ideas about how the brainteaser works. The more you work on solving the brainteaser before you turn to the hints, the more you’re working your brain. So don’t turn to the hints too early!
4. Stumped? Flip over Hint Card 1 (don’t peek at the others just yet). The first hint will get you started on solving the Brainteaser. After following this hint, see if you can solve the rest on your own. If you’re still stuck, move on to Hint 2 and then Hint 3.
5. Once you’ve solved the brainteaser try coming up with hints of your own. Do you have a different idea about what would help someone think through the brainteaser to a solution?
6. Introduce the brainteaser to a friend. Tell them the object in your own words and if they get stumped, offer them your own hints to help them along.

Classroom Use:
There are many different ways that you can use this kit in your classroom. You and your students will likely come up with your own ideas, but here are some to get you started:

- Solve a Brainteaser a Week:
  1. Pick a day of the week to be Brainteaser Day.
  2. Each week, choose one of the 8 Brainteasers to solve together as a class.
  3. Pass out the Object and Hint Cards to individuals within the class, reminding them not to peek. Put the Hint Cards in a closed envelope as a way to make sure that the answers aren’t inadvertently seen.
  4. Talk about the problem and explore the brainteaser pieces as a group.
  5. Invite students to attempt to solve and, if necessary, call on the Hint Cards for help.
  6. Once you’ve played through all 8 brainteasers, create a Brainteaser Corner in your classroom (see page 7).
- Keep up Brainteaser Day by finding additional brainteasers to bring into the classroom. ThinkFun® has plenty of resources and games that you can find at www.ThinkFun.com.
Create Brainteaser Centers. Each team will create a center where
give the teams time to explore and understand their brainteaser.

1. Divide students into teams and assign (or allow teams to choose) one of the 8 brainteasers.

2. On the teams time to explore and understand their brainteaser. If this is the first time they are seeing the brainteaser, it's a good time for them to try to solve it together as a team. (They may need an entire session or two to do this.)

3. Create Brainteaser Centers. Each team will create a center where they get to present their brainteaser. They will need:
   a. The Brainteaser—students can be creative. You may want to encourage them to create a theme and story around the brainteaser.
   b. Object and Hint Cards—students can use the cards provided or create their own. For some problem solving, students might need to think through creating their own hints. Perhaps these hints don’t guide them where to place a piece but rather take you through the thinking that is required in order to get to the solution.
   c. Presenter—someone to present the object and the brainteaser to their audience. Students can take turns doing this. They may have a big job in helping viewers to understand the problem and guide them through solving it without giving away the easy way out.
   d. Hold the Brainteaser Party! You can have fun doing this with just a few minutes that presenters take turns so that everyone gets a chance to walk from center to center.

Create a Brainteaser Corner in your Classroom:
Set up a permanent place in your classroom where students can go to solve brainteasers. This is a good activity to do during any free time that they might have. Encourage students to visit the Brainteaser Corner together so that they can collaborate on a solution. Invite students to bring their own brainteasers to the Brainteaser Corner as well. Encourage students to share and discuss their brainteasers with other students.

A Great way to use these brainteasers is to create a Brainteaser Party using a typical Math or Science Fair format. You can encourage students not only to solve and learn the brainteasers, but to further their problem solving and presentation skills by creating their own hints and format for presenting their brainteaser.

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