# Emoji Submission: JIGSAW PUZZLE PIECE

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# 1 Proposal for New Emoji

This is a proposal for the addition of a jigsaw puzzle piece emoji to the Unicode character set. Jigsaw puzzles have their origin in geography learning games, invented by the Britisch cartographer British John Spilsbury. To puzzle means "to bewilder, to confound". The term is probably the frequentative of pose, an old word for perplex.[2] Solving puzzles of all kinds is a widely participated hobby. Only a small fraction of puzzles are actually jigsaw puzzles. The characteristic form of a jigsaw puzzle piece (\*\*), however, is so well-recognized, that it stands for any kind of puzzles today.

#### 2 Names

#### 2.1 CLDR short name

Recommended name: jigsaw puzzle piece

#### 2.2 CLDR keywords

Recommended keywords: puzzle, piece, plugin

# 3 Images

#### 4 Selection Factors – Inclusion

#### 4.1 Compatibility

There are several existing fonts which contain jigsaw puzzle pieces, notably Jigsaw Pieces TFB, Fonts Bomb JiGSAW and mashy Jigsaw. While the first one contains lots of different puzzle pieces, the others use jigsaw puzzle pieces as a letter decoration. All those fonts are primary used for ornaments and headlines. They are not suitable for long texts. Because this submission is only for one jigsaw puzzle piece, which does not enclose any letters or numbers, this is not an issue.

Jigsaw puzzle pieces are implemented as vendor-specific emoji in lots of software products, however they are usually encoded with properitary notations, like :puzzle: or even bitmap files.

#### 4.2 Expected usage level

**Frequency** Because of the numerous different meanings of a jigsaw puzzle piece character  $(\clubsuit)$ , a high usage level is expected. In figure 4 you see a comparsion of the usage of the term puzzle and some other popular games.

**Multiple usages** A jigsaw puzzle piece may have several meanings, including, but not limited to:

- a mystery, riddle, problem, challenge, puzzle
- a strong connection, a part of a whole
- a difficultness indicator (e.g.: \* = easy, \* = medium, \* = hard)
- a module or a plugin (in software applications)
- puzzle games (genre of computer and board games)
- the number of pieces in a box, this is not limited to jigsaw puzzles
- an outdated(?) symbol for autism awareness[1]
- literally a jigsaw puzzle piece

**Use in Sequences** Followed by a number, the puzzle piece emoji indicates the number of parts in a box (e. g. **₹**1000). This is not limited to jigsaw puzzle boxes.

#### 4.3 Image distinctiveness

Although there are different shapes of jigsaw puzzle pieces (arrangement of ears and notches, border pieces, irregulary pieces), the very special form of jigsaw puzzle is absolutely distinct from any existing Unicode character.

#### 4.4 Completeness

The jigsaw puzzle piece is not part of any existing emoji sets. The nearest counterpart would be the *game die* U+1F3B2 emoji, because it is also game-related. While the *jigsaw puzzle piece* may describe *brain-teasing* games, the *game die* stands for *luck-based* ones.

#### 4.5 Frequently requested

Figure 5 shows a selection of Twitter users who complain the lackage of a puzzle piece emoji. There is also a Stack Overflow discussion about the missing jigsaw puzzle piece character in the Unicode standard.[3]

#### 5 Selection Factors – Exclusion

#### 5.1 Overly specific

The name of the *jigsaw puzzle piece* is very generic and allows different representation of the emoji (color, arrangement of ears and notches, ...)

Because of the many different possible interpretations of a jigsaw puzzle piece, you simply cannot tell that the character is overly specific.

#### 5.2 Open-ended

To avoid lots of different needless jigsaw puzzle piece characters like those used in *Jigsaw Pieces TFB* (fig. 6), there should be ensured, that *only one* new Unicode character is implemented.

#### 5.3 Already Representable

Although the emoji input latin uppercase (U+1F520) may be used for crossword puzzles and its counterpart U+1F522 for number puzzles (like Sudoku or Kakuro), this is not the intended purpose for those characters. The black question mark ornament (U+2753) may stand for a puzzle or a challenging situation, but it cannot represent "part of a whole" or number of pieces. For those meanings, the existing emoji chains (U+26D3), respectively black medium square (U+25FC) may be used.

#### 5.4 Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Jigsaw puzzle pieces appear in several different logos, see figure 7. A notable one is the Microsoft Office 97 logo: The jigsaw puzzle pieces represent the four applications PowerPoint, Word, Outlook and Excel, which can be seen as modules or as the parts of the whole program suite, complementing each other.

Wikipedia's logo shows an unfinished spherical jigsaw puzzle, whose pieces contain the letter W in several different scripts. This symbolic means that people from all over the world can contribute to and be part of this open, collaborative encyclopedia.

The shape of a jigsaw puzzle piece is not protected and may be used regardless of any existing logos using it.

#### 5.5 Transient

As you see in figure 4, there is a slight higher interest in puzzles before Christmas. The long-time popularity of puzzles - unlike that of Mahjong - is stable, though. It would be very improbably that puzzles lose in popularity.

#### 5.6 Faulty Comparison

There are no known issues here.

#### 6 Sort location

#### 6.1 Category

Recommended category: game

#### 6.2 Emoji before

Recommended emoji before: spade suit (U+2660)

# 7 Other Information

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### References

- [1] Debra Muzikar. The Autism Puzzle Piece: A symbol that's going to stay or go? The art of autism. 2010. URL: http://the-art-of-autism.com/the-autism-puzzle-piece-a-symbol-of-what/ (visited on 06/06/2017).
- [2] Online Etymology Dictionary. puzzle. URL: http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=puzzle (visited on 06/06/2017).
- [3] Stack Overflow. Unicode character for PUZZLE PIECE? 2010. URL: https://stackoverflow.com/questions/3305115/unicode-character-for-puzzle-piece (visited on 06/06/2017).

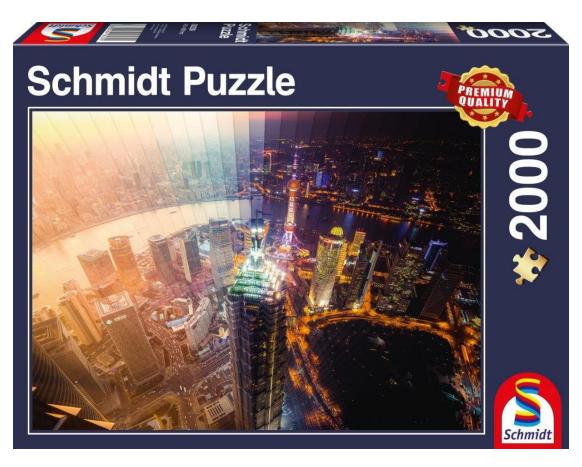


Figure 1: A puzzle box, note how Schmidt Spiele uses the \* emoji in the meaning of "number of pieces"



Figure 2: An emoji-themed puzzle



Figure 3: A pair of friendship pendants with the "parts-of-a-whole theme"

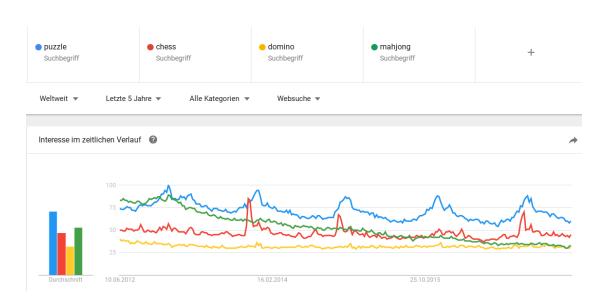


Figure 4: Google Trends, puzzle compared to other popular games

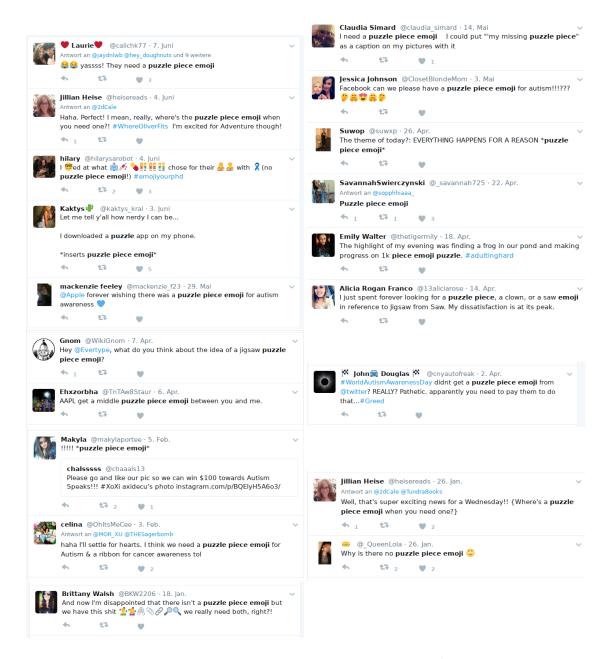


Figure 5: Various Twitter users requesting a jigsaw puzzle piece emoji

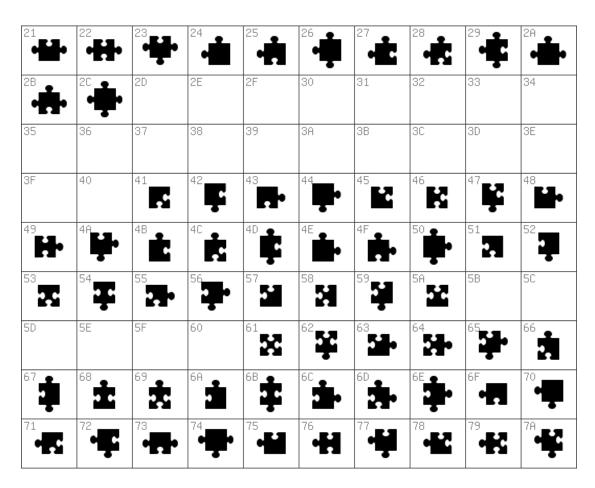


Figure 6: Font map of Jigsaw Pieces TFB



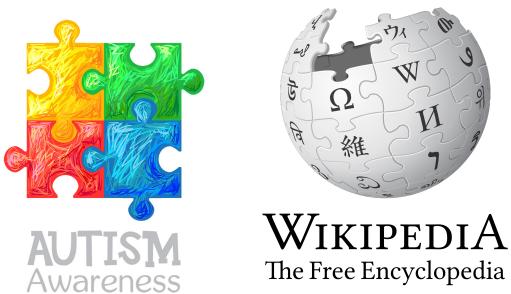


Figure 7: Different logos including the \* emoji