

# Make a sliding puzzle with Lee Farmer

Create your own sliding puzzle, using drawing or painting and collage techniques, with artist Lee Farmer.

Suitable for ages 5 to adult; younger makers may need adult assistance or supervision.



## You will need:

- Cardboard (e.g. a box - big enough to cut a 30cm x 30cm square from the largest side)
- Scissors, or craft knife and cutting mat/board (this will need adult assistance)
- Glue stick or double-sided tape
- Coloured/ printed papers for collaging
- Blank paper for drawing
- Pencils, coloured pencils, coloured pens or paints
- Thick coloured pens or coloured tape

## 1. Cut the following:

- 1 backboard square, 30cm x 30cm
- 8 square sliding pieces, 8cm x 8cm
- 2 cardboard strips 30cm x slightly less than 3cm wide
- 2 cardboard strips 26cm x slightly less than 3cm wide

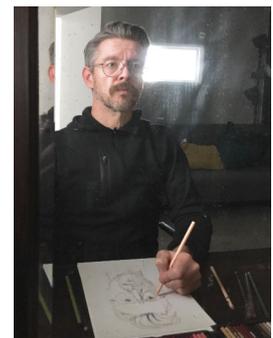


## 2. Use the printed and coloured papers with the glue stick or tape to collage the backboard (you can leave up to about 2.5cm of card showing all around the edge)



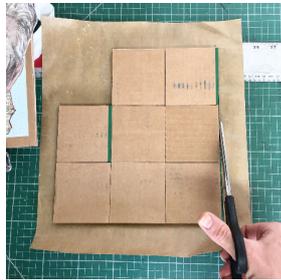
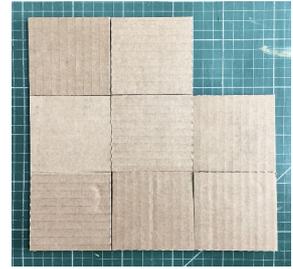
## 3. Collage the edge pieces with coloured papers (or white paper, then colour them in)

## 4. On the blank paper, draw or paint a picture. This could be a portrait of yourself, in a mirror, or from memory, or from a photo; someone who is with you – a family member or friend; or of someone you can't be with, from a photo or a screengrab. You can refer to artist [Harriet Riddell's guide](#) on how to sketch a portrait. It needs to fit in the area created by the cardboard squares (see step 5). You can cut the head or figure out and collage the background instead (alternatively, you can draw the background).



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5. Arrange your 8 cardboard squares as per the image:  
(one square will be missing, so pick the area of your design which you don't mind being blank, and make that the missing square; mine was in the top right-hand corner)
6. Once you've decided on your background, stick your drawing carefully to the cardboard squares, making sure they don't move when you do it. Turn it over and trim off the excess when it's stuck down, including the area where there is no cardboard square.
7. Carefully cut the picture into pieces by cutting between the cardboard squares.



8. Trim the corners of the squares making them slightly rounded, then go around the edges with a thick pen or coloured tape.
9. Stick your decorated edge pieces to the backboard and lay your squares in the middle to form your picture but leaving slight gaps to make sure they slide freely.



10. Slide one square at a time into the empty space until the picture is jumbled... now slide the pieces to solve the puzzle and make the picture again!

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**Take it further:**

- Make a puzzle on a different theme, e.g. make your image abstract, using random shapes or make it from a splash painting.
- Create a puzzle using more squares or make it much smaller or much bigger!
- Build a puzzle where the squares are double-sided (two puzzles for the price of one!)

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**If you are interested in nature why not try Lee's other activity, Hanging Garden -**

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**There are lots of activities on our website – what would you like to make next?**

**[www.herts.ac.uk/uhbow/get-involved/create-it-share-it](http://www.herts.ac.uk/uhbow/get-involved/create-it-share-it)**

**Lee Farmer**

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