



Short Activity
Ages 9–12
20 minutes

Pencil Puzzles

Description

A package of pencil puzzles including a word search, a crossword puzzle, a silly story, secret messages and a braille alphabet decoder.

Space Considerations

Any type of space where participants can be seated to do a worksheet

Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Following directions
- Written communication skills

Materials

- Printouts of the pencil puzzle worksheets
- Pencils or pens

Implementation

These worksheets can be included as part of a scheduled program or be used as a passive activity in which you leave the printouts out for kids to complete at any time. You can also post these printable worksheets on your library's social media platforms for parents and caregivers to download.

1. Print the desired number of pencil puzzle worksheets.

- [Ancient Olympics Word Search](#)

Instructions: Participants search for and circle the ancient Olympic sports in the jumble of letters. The words may appear horizontally, vertically, diagonally and

backwards.

- [Ball Sports Crossword Puzzle](#)

Instructions: Participants read the numbered clues and write the answer in the spot marked by that number in the crossword puzzle. Clues are marked as either across or down.

- [Silly Story](#)

Instructions: This worksheet should be printed double-sided. Participants fill in words based on the prompts on the first side of the sheet. Next, they flip the page over and write their word choices into the corresponding boxes and then they read the story.

- [Secret Messages](#)

Instructions: Participants write their own secret message by using the shapes and symbols in place of the corresponding letters. If desired, participants can hand the sheet over to another participant or a parent/caregiver to decode the message.

- [Braille decoder](#)

Instructions: Participants use the braille alphabet chart to decode the braille. Then, participants can try to braille their first name and last name.

Accessibility Considerations

- Our worksheets contain large font wherever possible.
- We've included a variety of worksheet options so staff and participants can pick whatever is most appealing and/or suitable for them.
- As always, kids can be encouraged to work in teams if desired. For example, while working on the crossword puzzle, it's not necessary for all participants to write but everyone can contribute answers to the clues.
- Consider using [tongue twisters](#) as an alternative for children who may have difficulty with completing pencil-and-paper worksheets.

Book Suggestions

Camp Average: Double Foul by Craig Battle

The Puck Drops Here (Hockey Super Six) by Kevin Sylvester

Thea Stilton and the Race for the Gold by Thea Stilton