

Create and Design a Word Search Puzzle



OBJECTIVE:

To create a word search puzzle



PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Go to any magazine stand and you'll quickly realize that word search puzzle books (sometimes called "word find" or "word seek" books) are a popular American pastime. Finding and circling search words gives the player a sense of self-satisfaction, while passing the time. In this project, you will use your desktop publishing software to create a word search puzzle based on a theme or subject of your choice.



GET TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DESIGNING:

Word search puzzles are common word games that contain random letters set up in a grid format (usually rectangular or square in shape). The player's goal is to find and circle words that have been "hidden" horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and sometimes backwards. Some word search puzzles are devoted to general themes or popular subjects, some to specific individuals, and some with no connecting elements at all.



STRATEGIES AND DESIGN TIPS TO FOLLOW:

Creating a word search puzzle using desktop publishing software is a fairly complex procedure, involving many steps. In this project, you will need to pay close attention to the "Page Setup Instructions" and "Content and Design Steps to Follow" sections.

Since you will be dedicating a good deal of time to setting up your document, unlike in previous projects, most of the formatting, layout, and placement decisions required are provided for you. Therefore, there are no strategies and design tips included for this project.

Project #32: Create and Design a Word Search Puzzle *(continued)*



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Using your desktop publishing software, create a new document.
2. Save the file as **“Word Search Puzzle”** to the “Publish It!” folder.
3. Complete the “Content and Design Steps to Follow” provided below.
4. Proofread your work carefully for accuracy, design, and format.
5. Resave the file.
6. Print a copy of the document.

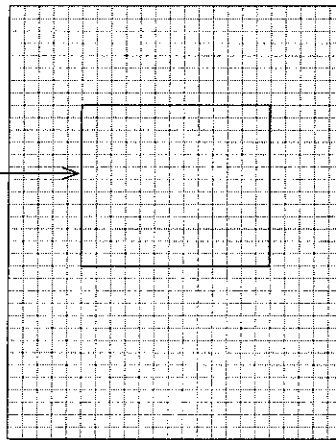


CONTENT AND DESIGN STEPS TO FOLLOW:

1. To begin, select a theme or subject for your word search puzzle.
2. Create a list of ten search words (consisting of no more than 13 letters per word) that relate to the theme or subject of your word search puzzle.
3. Obtain a sheet of blank graph (grid) paper. Using a pencil, draw a square that is 13 boxes high by 13 boxes tall, as illustrated in diagram 32-1 provided below.

Diagram 32-1

Draw a square that
is 13 boxes high by
13 boxes tall



4. Write the ten search words inside of the boxes (one letter per box) within the square you drew on the graph paper. Words can be placed vertically, horizontally, diagonally, or backwards.
5. Now fill in the empty boxes with random letters to hide the search words.
6. You are now ready to begin creating your word search puzzle on the computer. Carefully follow the “Page Setup Instructions” provided on page 128.

Project #32: Create and Design a Word Search Puzzle *(continued)*

7. Place the title of your word search puzzle in the area between the top margin and horizontal guide (as indicated in the illustration provided on page 128). Center-align the title. You decide on the font and size of the title.
8. Click inside the text box you created in Step 2 in the "Page Setup Instructions" section. Copying exactly from your graph paper, type each letter into the text box, separating each letter by a tab. You will need to hit the <enter> key at the end of each row (line). Use Arial for the font sized at 10 pt.
9. Select all of the letters within the text box and change the leading (line spacing) to 26 pt.
10. Type the following instructions below the border surrounding the word search letters (as indicated in the illustration provided on page 128). Use Arial for the font sized at 12 pt. Bold the word "Instructions."

"Instructions: In the word search box located above, search for the words provided below. When you find a word, circle it, then cross it off the list. Search words are set vertically, horizontally, diagonally, or backwards."
11. Type the list of your search words below the instructions (as indicated in the illustration provided on page 128). Use Arial for the font sized at 12 pt. bold.
12. Decorate the page by adding one or more graphic images related to the theme or subject of your word search puzzle.
13. Go to Step 4 in the "Instructions" section provided on the previous page.

Project #32: Create and Design a Word Search Puzzle (continued)



PAGE SETUP INSTRUCTIONS:

- # of pages:** 1
Dimensions: 8.5 x 11 inches
Margins: .75 inches on all sides
Orientation: Portrait
Other:

1. Place a horizontal guide at 2.5 inches and vertical guides at 1 and 7.5 inches.
2. Using the text tool, draw a text box measuring 6.5 inches wide by 4.8 inches tall. Place this text box just below the horizontal guide centered between the two vertical guides, as shown in the illustration provided below.
3. Click inside the text box and set center-aligned tab stops at .5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5, and 6.0 inches. The tab stops will allow you to enter each letter in your word search puzzle evenly. In the illustration provided below, the letter "X" is used to illustrate what the word search text box will look like when complete.
4. Draw a 1 pt. border around the text box as shown in the illustration provided below. Be careful not to overlap any part of the text box.
5. Continue by returning to Step 7 in the "Content and Design Steps to Follow" section of this project.

