

# Science Adventures in Team Building

## Building Community in the Classroom

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**ELE90/101903**  
978-0-7877-1942-5  
Release Date 2015

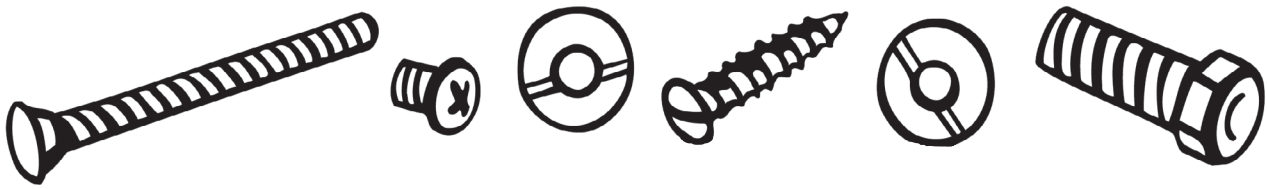
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P. O. Box 802  
Dayton, OH 45401-0802  
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The pages in this packet were originally published in  
Adventures in Team Building, (ELE90/1019).

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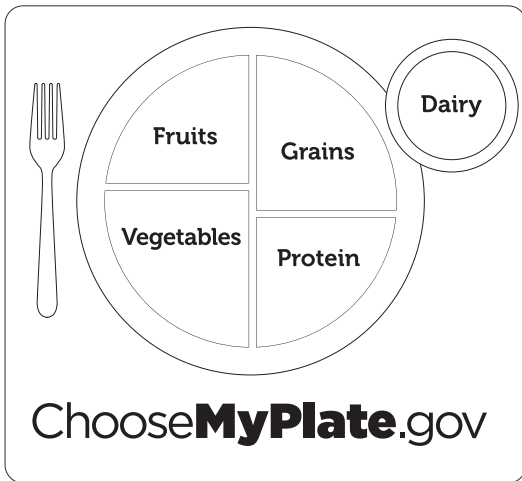
Lorenz Educational Press  
Milliken Publishing Company  
Teaching and Learning Company  
Show What You Know® Publishing  
LEP interactive



## Hunt for the Food Groups

### Materials Needed:

- Large sheet of paper, magazines, scissors, and glue or tape for each team



USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

Divide students into teams, and provide each team with a few magazines. Challenge each team to find and cut out different items that fit into MyPlate. Have each team draw MyPlate on large sheet of paper and glue or tape the foods on it in the appropriate category: fruits; vegetables; protein; grains; dairy.

## Hairy Friends

### Materials Needed:

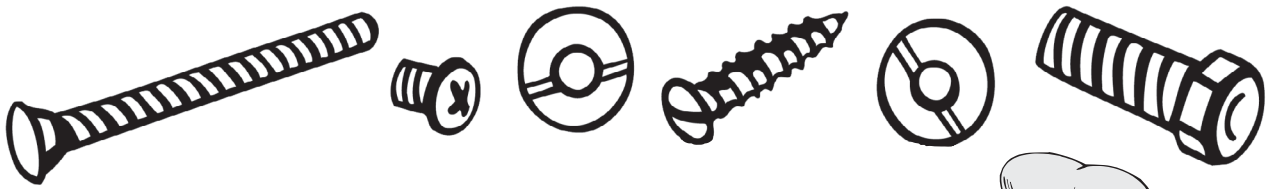
- Styrofoam cup, potting soil, grass seed, and crafting materials (markers, glitter, glue, stickers, sequins, etc.) for each team
- Water

Here is a simple way to create a whole group of classroom pets while learning about plants and what they need to grow. Divide the class into groups of two to three, and supply each group with a cup, potting soil, grass seed (which can be found at your local nursery or home improvement store), and crafting materials.

Encourage each team to decorate its cup with the face of an animal by using the crafting materials. You may even want to have each group name its “pet” when finished. Help each group fill its cup about three-quarters full of potting soil and sprinkle on the grass seed. Top off each cup with more potting soil, add a little bit of water, and put the pets in a window that gets sun at least part of the day. In a few days, the classroom pets will have a full head of “hair”!



Use this activity to talk about what plants need to grow and survive.



## What's That Smell?

### Materials Needed:

- Scents
- Small plastic bag and cotton ball for each student
- Labels for each bag
- Crayon or marker



This activity allows students to use their sense of smell to form their own groups. Collect several different distinctly scented liquids and enough cotton balls and small plastic bags for the entire class. Some suggested scents are listed below. Place a few drops of the first scent on several cotton balls, and put each cotton ball in its own plastic bag. Discreetly label all of the bags with the same scent, perhaps using a very small colored dot on the label, or label each bag of this first scent A–D. You don't want the students to use these labels to complete the activity. Continue in this way with the remaining scents.

During class, give each student a plastic bag with a cotton ball in it. The goal of the activity is for each student to find other teammates with a bag containing the same scent. Have each student stand with his or her new team; see if the team can guess the scent they have been carrying. This activity is a great way to divide students into teams for future science activities.

**Suggested Scents:** peppermint, vanilla, banana, almond, and orange extracts; perfume; lotion; vinegar

## Dressed for the Occasion

### Materials Needed:

- Clothing and accessories specific to particular seasons (coat, scarf, mittens, sweatshirt, swimming goggles, bathing suit, short-sleeved shirt, etc.)

Place the clothes on the floor in the center of the room. Divide the class into teams of five or six, and have them line up around the clothes. Call out the name of a particular season. The first student in line for each team runs to pile and puts on an article of clothing that fits the season. Team members can help out their teammate with words, but they may not leave their place in line. Each team receives one point for each correct item put on by a team member. The team with the most points at the end of the game is the winner. This game can get a little hectic, so for safety reasons be sure to remove any obstacles.