

Science & Social Studies Adventures in Team Building

Building Community in the Classroom

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EGG DROP

Materials Needed: Carton of eggs
Packing supplies, such as bubble wrap or Styrofoam packing peanuts
Paper
Rubber bands
Tape
Large sheets of plastic or newspaper

Place an equal number of each of the supplies at different tables, and divide the students into teams of four or more. Cover the floor of the work area with plastic or newspaper.

Give each team one egg to start with (teams may need more eggs if their experiments prove faulty). Have each team design a package to protect the egg. Once all the teams have created their egg packages, have a person from each team drop their egg to test how well their package works. To be fair, make sure each team drops its packaged egg from the same height. Any team with an unbroken egg wins.

Extension Activity

Have the teams with successful egg drops make a list of materials they used. Have students identify the common materials the winning teams used and discuss why these materials worked better than others.



BRIDGE BUILDING

Materials Needed: Paper, tape, and pipe cleaners for each team

Divide the class into teams of four or five. Have each team use the materials to build a bridge that joins the surface of one desk to the surface of another desk.

As the teams construct their bridges, there must be no talking. Students may communicate nonverbally but may not speak during the process. The bridges must be strong enough to hold the weight of a book. The first silent team to make a bridge that holds a book without breaking wins.

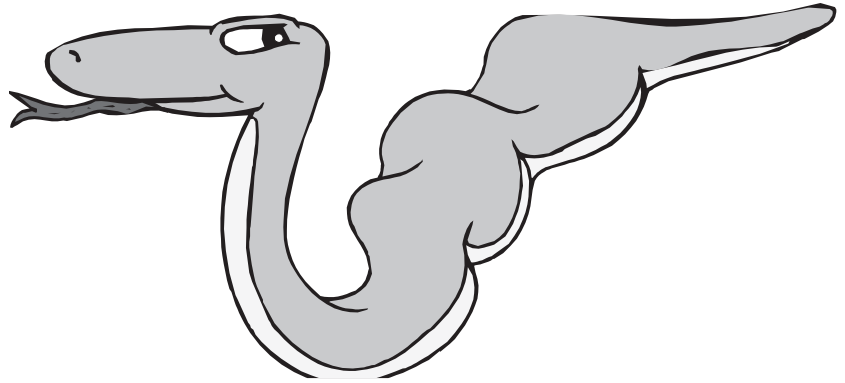
ANIMAL MANIA

Materials Needed: Photocopied and cut out set(s) of the animal cards, page 43
Hat or bowl

If there are more students than animal cards, make copies of the cards. Place the cards in a hat or bowl. Have each student draw an animal out of the hat without showing the card to anyone else.

After everyone has drawn an animal, the students must find classmates who have the same animal—without talking. Students can make animal noises or gestures to find each other, but nothing else.

Most of the animals are harmless, but there are two dangerous animals on the list: snake and tiger. The students who pick these animals have the power to take their classmates out of the game. The snake and tiger can go up to any student and take them out by subtly winking at him or her. When other students guess who the snake and the tiger are, the snake and tiger must leave the game.



NEWSPAPER CHAIR

Materials Needed: Newspapers
Tape

Have several newspapers and lots of tape available. Have students partner with one other person. If the class is big or if you have few newspapers, the groups can be larger. Challenge the students to make a chair using only the newspapers and tape.

This chair should be able to hold one of them without collapsing when he or she sits in it. The first team to successfully build a chair that holds one of the teammates wins.

Remind the students to carefully test the chairs as they are being built. If the chairs are not sturdy, the “tester” may end up on the floor! Remind students about the importance of safety when doing these types of experiments. There is no correct way to build the chair, but students may find that rolling the newspaper makes the structure sturdier. Some chairs will look more aesthetically pleasing than others. These teams can be considered winners as well.

Discuss why the winning team(s)' chairs worked, then discuss why the other team(s)' chairs did not.

Jobs	Food
Places	Animals
Books	Movies
Plants	Games

Tiger	Snake
Bird	Dog
Cat	Pig
Monkey	Bird
Dog	Cat
Pig	Monkey
Bird	Dog
Cat	Pig
Monkey	Bird
Dog	Cat
Pig	Monkey