

Helping Harry!

A Lesson About Teamwork & Perspectives



OBJECTIVE:

This lesson deals with teamwork, looking at other perspectives and resolving conflict. The challenge requires the students to stick to a schedule, come up with a plan, try it out, cooperate with one another, test their idea and then reflect on the process.

MATERIALS:

- Various colored Pom Poms –medium to large size
- Google eyes
- Bags (either paper or plastic)
- Pipe cleaners
- Masking tape
- Muffin tin liners
- Aluminum foil
- Index cards
- Popsicle sticks

PREPERATION:

- Glue google eyes on each of the “Harry” pom poms and place them somewhere in the classroom where the students can see them.
- Make up the supply bags for the number of groups you will have.

You can tweak the contents of the supply bag to be whatever you have on hand! I used a piece of foil, about 12 pipe cleaners, 12 inches of masking tape, two cupcake liners, 2 index cards, and a popsicle stick. You can consider using paper clips, a piece of yarn, a small paper cup, or a small paper plate. The task can be done using whatever you have!

LESSON:

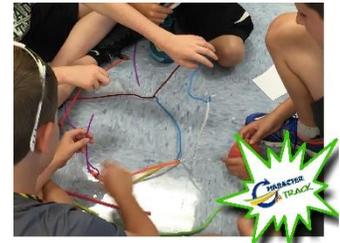
Tell the students that we need to help Harry. (They will look at you like you are crazy.) They will be looking around quizzically and you can then introduce them to Harry.

Harry is a puffball (You will need several of them placed on the desk or smartboard) who needs a new “perch” so that he can see out over the class more safely. You can tell the students that each group would receive a bag of supplies and instructions (make copies of instructions included [here](#)). You can show them the supplies (12 pipe cleaners, about 12 inches of tape, two muffin liners, a piece of aluminum foil, two index cards and Popsicle sticks).



Next tell the students that they must think about a nice safe place for Harry to hang out. Let the students plan out their strategies for about 5 minutes as instructed.

After 5 minutes of talking and planning without supplies, set the timer for 15 minutes and watched the teams get to work.

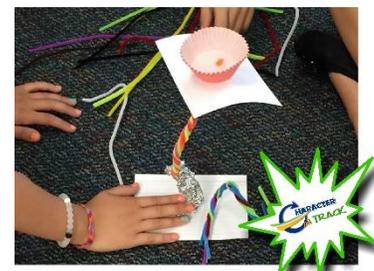


You will be SHOCKED at the wide range of strategies--and how much "re-engineering" took place so willingly! Talk to the students about how important it is to try, test, revise, and test again—looking at everyone’s perspectives, resolving any conflicts that arise and using good teamwork.

Instruct the students that they have 15 minutes to build their perch for Harry. After the 15 minutes has passed, pass out the Harries to each group to put in their perch.

They will then have 5 minutes to make any modifications to their project.

When the testing and celebrating is over, have the teams take time to evaluate how they did by completing the evaluation at the bottom of the instruction page. (a copy is provided in this book). Make sure to tell them to be honest!



DISCUSSION:

1. What does the word “cooperation” mean?
2. How did it feel to cooperate?
3. How did our cooperation make it easier to be successful in getting Harry’s perch made?
4. How did the group make decisions today when doing the project? Did everyone contribute or only a few?
5. What does the word “perspectives” mean?
6. Does everyone see things in the same perspective or did some of you have different ideas?
7. Was it difficult to decide on a plan that everyone could agree on? Why or why not? What did you dislike about the way decision were made?
8. What skills do you think you learned today that would help you be more effective?
9. How should we react if things didn’t get done the way you thought they should?
10. What was difficult about being a supporting team member?
11. How can we relate what we learned today to our everyday interaction with our friends?

ACTIVITY:

“Work of Art”

Team building means you are developing their ability to work together toward a common goal. When a team works together to solve a challenge, everyone in the group wins and all students have a positive experience. Conducting a team building activity can help students work on developing the following skills:

Problem solving
Communication
Listening
Leadership
Creative thinking

Idea exchange
Working with others
Cooperation
Self-esteem

Materials:

- Piece of paper
- Crayons
- Paint or markers

Description:

Decide on a theme for the artwork. Spread a large piece on paper of the floor and have the students create a piece of artwork based on the chosen theme. Encourage the students to share ideas and divide duties to create a masterpiece that you can hang in the classroom. Remind the students to us the lessons that they learned about teamwork in the Harry lesson.

You can also split the students into groups for the project if needed.

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