

OUTDOOR LEARNING CARDS



TEAMBUILDING TB4

CROSSING THE SWAMP



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Activity

Aim: The whole of the group must cross the 'swamp' without getting their feet wet.

- Only use the equipment provided.
- Return to the start if anyone falls in the swamp or introduce other forfeits, eg no talking, use of blindfolds.
- Finish with all your equipment on the 'other' side.
- This is not a race.

Review & Evaluation

- Did the whole team play a part in communicating throughout the exercise?
- What was most important in helping you to succeed?
- Did you listen to everyone's ideas and suggestions?
- How easy was it for the last person in the line to recover the 'equipment'?
- How could the task of the last person be made easier?

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Safety Points

- Avoid jumping or leaping onto or from any of the 'stepping stones'.
- Emphasise good lifting and handling techniques.
- Avoid using 'stepping stones', which easily tip, are slippery, are unnecessarily high or cannot support more than one member of the group.
- Beware of falls onto hard surfaces.
- Keep teams well spaced apart.

Organisation

- Suitable for a large group divided into teams of 4–8.
- Limit the number of stepping stones to ensure one or more must be passed from back to the front of the group

Equipment

- Use tape or rope to define the 'banks' of the swamp 10m+ apart.
- Carpet tiles; milk crates; strong up turned boxes can all be used.

Differentiation & Progression

- Provide additional stepping stones, or reduce the number to increase the challenge.
- Increase/reduce the width of the swamp.
- Use small or large mats to cross the area
- Ask the group to transport a container or containers of water.
- Blindfold one group member.
- Set a target time for a return or second crossing.
- Introduce one 'trip wire' to go under or one to go over or both.
- Try organising a race.

Skills & Knowledge

- Generate ideas and express them.
- Ask questions.
- Recognise when others need support.
- Demonstrate a willingness to trust others and accept support.
- Invite feedback and deal positively with praise, setbacks and criticism.
- Evaluate experience and apply lessons learned.

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