

Newspaper Shelter

Objective:

To allow for observation of team interaction while exploring communication skills, cooperation, planning, and having fun.

Group Size:

Teams between 8-12 people.

Materials:

Newspapers and masking tape.

Instructions:

The group is told they are stuck in the desert or on a deserted island. They have to build a structure that is free standing and will protect the entire group from the sun.

They have 20 minutes to **plan** how they are going to build the structure. After the 20 minutes they have 20 minutes to **build** the structure, but they cannot talk during the building phase.

Processing Questions:

1. What worked during the process? What hindered the process?
2. How did you plan your structure?
3. What roles emerged during the process? Was there a leader?
4. Did everyone have an active role?
5. How did it feel to not be able to talk during the building phase?
6. Did you work as a team? How do you know?
7. What did you learn about yourself and your organization during this exercise?

Facilitator Notes:

Take care to not set this exercise up as a competition between teams. They will probably assume it is, but one interesting question you can ask is why the teams did not work together to build the shelter.