

Shrinking Spaces - Collaboration

EXPLANATION:

A team that works well together is more effective, more productive, and more successful. As a space shrinks, the students will need to find a way for the group to occupy the space. Team members will need strategy and creativity to save themselves!

GRADE LEVELS: 7–10

STUDENT GROUPING: Group sizing will depend on the size of the space—bigger groups require more negotiations and strategy!

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 30 minutes approx.

CASEL CORE COMPETENCY: *RELATIONSHIP SKILLS*

- Communicating effectively
- Practicing teamwork and collaborative problem solving
- Showing leadership in groups
- You can learn more about the CASEL framework [here](#)

SCOPE OF TASK:

This game requires a good deal of strategy in addition to teamwork!

Important Note: This activity requires students to physically interact with one another, which may or may not be appropriate for certain cohorts of students and contexts. For an alternative activity about collaboration, see grades 11–12 Desert Island Survival.

1. Arrange students in groups of approximately six—or allow students to self-select groups. Larger-sized groups require greater negotiation and strategy skills.
2. Share the objectives of the challenge with the students:
 - Each team will be allocated a specific, roped-in floor space in which the team must fit.
 - This space will be reduced at intervals.
 - Each time the space is reduced, the teams will be given a set time to strategize and determine how they will fit into their smaller spaces (time determined by the teacher).
 - If a group fails to stay within the confines of the boundary, that group is out of the challenge.
 - The group that stays within the smallest space is the winning team.
3. Before the challenge begins, ask the students questions to assist them in thinking about how to approach the challenge. What strategies do you think you will need to win the challenge? Consider the issues that require collaboration:
 - Physical ability and space
 - Negotiation skills
 - Critical thinking
 - Creativity
 - Does the team need a leader to make decisions?
 - Should leaders be changed each round?
4. Assemble the teams in the various spaces and commence the challenge.
5. Each round, reduce the space, give time for strategizing, and then restart the challenge.
6. Once a winning team has been determined, debrief:
 - What strategies did the winning team employ?
 - Why do they believe they were successful?
 - Did other teams use similar ideas/strategies?
 - What collaboration skills were the most useful?
7. Ask the students to reflect on what other activities in life require collaboration.



RESOURCES:

- Items that can create a boundary, such as a rope, carpet squares, or hula hoops