

Communication Practice

Teacher Information

Background Information

Astronauts and Flight Controllers cannot always see each other or see the same things during a mission. They need to be able to communicate well in order to describe objects and situations accurately. This activity will allow students to practice their communication skills.

Materials

grid paper – 2 sheets
box of crayons
divider (optional)

Procedure

1. Students will work in pairs.
2. Each team has a piece of grid paper and a box of crayons.
3. Team members may either sit back to back or place a divider between them.
4. One team member, using the crayons, colors a design on his/her grid paper. He/she must use 20 squares and every colored square must be touching at least one other colored square.
5. Once that team member is finished making the design, he/she passes the box of crayons to the partner, but does not let the partner see the design.
6. Still sitting back to back or with a divider between team members, the first partner must describe to the second partner exactly how to duplicate the design on the grid paper. He/she has a 3-minute time period in which to do this. It is important that this activity be timed.
7. At the end of 3 minutes, the second team member's design is checked to see how closely it matches the first team member's. Each square that is colored properly and is in the correct location is worth 1 point. A perfect score is 20. (Remember, this requires teamwork. The better each partner's score, the better the communication!)
8. This activity can be repeated several times using a new design each time.
9. When the task is complete, students will put all crayons back in the box and return all materials to the proper container.

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Student Sheet

Objective

To develop and strengthen communication skills.

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9. When the task is complete, put all crayons back in the box and return all materials to the proper container.
10. Answer the questions below.

Conclusions

1. What was the team's score?
2. How could the directions be improved to increase the team's score?
3. How does this activity demonstrate good communication skills?
4. Why are good communication skills so important to a space mission?