



Cleopatra's Gold

FACTSHEET

On a certain day and time in the calendar, the shadow of Cleopatra's Needle pointed to buried treasure. Can teams solve the secrets of Alexandria?

- 1 hour + debrief
- 3-24 (up to 4 teams of 3-6 per team)
- For staff at any level
- No computer program
- £495 ex VAT



Learning objectives

- to assess teamwork in action
- to highlight need for clear objectives
- to adapt to changing circumstances
- to choose between competing options
- to identify and manage risk
- to practise problem-solving and presentation skills

About the activity

Participants work in teams. Each team must fulfill a set of tasks for the Egyptian Government, culminating in locating the burial place of Cleopatra's gold. They must first reconstruct the Needle on the original site, using ancient methods.

The tasks:

- decide how long it will take to quarry and sculpt the marble blocks for the Needle and transport them to Alexandria for assembly.
- estimate the likely cost - there are two possible options.
- in the face-to-face version, build a scale model of Cleopatra's Needle, and in the virtual version, solve the mystery of Cleopatra's necklace.
- calculate the length and direction of the Needle's shadow at a particular time to - not as difficult as it might sound when you have access to *The Chief Astronomer's Figures!*
- make a presentation of your findings and your recommendation to the government, being mindful of their needs (for quality, efficiency and accuracy)

Part way through the activity, when teams are well into the task, notice of a third option is revealed. How will teams manage this change in circumstances?

All aspects of the tasks are scored (700 points are up for grabs). Effective, efficient teamwork will win the day - and the gold!

List of contents

- Trainer's Notes
- Team Briefs (for Face-to-Face sessions)
- Team Briefs (for Virtual sessions)
- Handout 1: Haber Quarry
- Handout 2: Calculation Form
- Handout 3: Team Review
- Resources (for Face-to-Face sessions): A4 card, scissors, sticky tape, ruler, one dice

This activity is supplied as a hard copy pack and digitally for use in both face-to-face and virtual classrooms.

Five-year licence

This Northgate training activity comes with a five-year licence for repeat use with up to 24 participants. A licence is required for each site (or remote hub). To use with larger groups or for multiple site licences please contact us for a quote.

Ideally suited to

Assessing team skills, team development and the ability to get a job done well.



Cleopatra's Gold

Customer reviews

“ Every activity we have purchased from Northgate has been very *effective* and *well received* by delegates.
Craig Leonard, Head of HR, Barnsley College

“ My colleagues and I have been using Northgate activities for 25 years for team-based learning and we have always been impressed by the *quality* of the material and the *insights* the students get from taking part in these activities.
Paul Roberts, Principal Fellow for Quality & Reliability, WMG, University of Warwick

“ Every Northgate product we have ever used has worked really well!
Ian Palfreyman, Director, Unicus



Trainer's role (full guidance supplied in Trainer's notes)

- Briefly introduce the activity and then arrange the group into teams.
- Issue each team with copies of the **Team Brief** and shortly afterwards with a set of **Resources**. Observe teams in action. There's a lot to do but avoid any temptation to get involved. It's always fascinating to see how a team gets to grips with the task and how they decide to proceed. They have the opportunity to behave as a super-efficient unit, but will they grasp it?
- After 25 minutes issue Handout 1 (Haber Quarry). This introduces a change element (and is optional). Will teams may ignore it or adapt and change focus?
- Shortly after, issue Handout 2 (the Calculation Form) for teams to record their costs, schedules and details of the exact location of Cleopatra's Gold.
- Issue Handout 3 (Team Review) for teams to reflect (honestly) on how well they dealt with the task and what they could have done better.
- (Optional) Ask teams to make short presentations, to 'sell' their proposals.
- Conduct a debrief by asking teams to share their responses to the Team Review questions. Bring out the key learning points on teamwork skills, communication and organisational skills.
- Finally review the Calculation Forms and announce the winning team.

Northgate says...

You may like to set up a league table within your organisation. Each time you run a session of Cleopatra's Gold, add the winning team's score to your table, to display on a relevant platform.

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