

Mission Improbable

NEW
EDITION

FACTSHEET

A collaborative teamwork activity which identifies key lessons to improve communication skills in the workplace.

-  1 hour + debrief
-  6-24 (in 2 or 4 teams of 3-6 per team)
-  For staff at any level
-  No computer required
-  395 ex VAT



Learning objectives

- Seeing what interactions make an effective team
- Seeing the dangers in making assumptions
- Seeing the benefits of supporting other teams, and developing trust
- Seeing the need to share information freely, when appropriate
- Seeing the need for a disciplined approach to communications

About the activity

Teams are paired in this activity, so you'll need two teams or four teams per session.

Each team's task is to plan a way to get 200 eggs to a given destination, in hilly terrain. To encourage co-operation between team-pairs their Briefs state it is the two teams *combined* score that counts. But invariably teams lose sight of this stated objective and treat each other as rivals. The apparent reluctance to work together can be almost palpable!

They each have a set of data such as journey start points, walking speeds, egg carriers, distances etc but at some point teams realise that their map does not cover the total area they need to see. Between them, team-pairs do have the total area and must establish this fact by communicating and be prepared to work together.

For communication channels, one team-pair has walkie-talkies (only) and if you have a second team-pair, they use written notes (only). The communications must now be very specific: with grid references (all explained in team briefs), times, destinations etc. They'll realise that they have similar but not identical tasks, but with *all* the facts shared, both teams can fully understand the situation. There is now an opportunity for some creative thinking that will help them achieve their objective and gain maximum points.

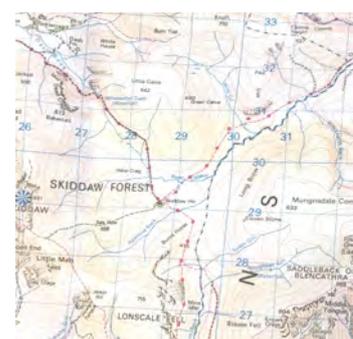
Clearly demonstrates how teams can get bogged down in detail and lose sight of their overall objective and how rivalry gets in the way of a spirit of cooperation.

Pack contents

- Trainer's Notes
- Team Briefing Sheets
- OS Maps
- Map Measurers
- Sketch Maps
- Walkie-Talkies & Batteries

Ideally suited to

Seeing how teams can work with other teams on a fairly straightforward project.



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Customer reviews

It was ace! Really *engaging*, really *fun* and a really *creative* way to identify the key elements of *working as a team*.

Matthew Hotten, People & Organisational Development Manager,
Geberit Sales Ltd

Mission Improbable is one of the *best* training activities I've EVER used! Fun, *challenging* and rich for team coaching.

Peter Collins, Head of Training, 24Seven Group

Mission Improbable! was a *great success* and enjoyed by all. The debrief and lessons proved *very valuable* to the team and we referred back to the exercise several times during the week's training course.

Roger Porthouse, Lead Consultant, Latent Capability



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

- Introduce the activity without giving anything away about the task.
- Divide the group into pairs of teams and issue Team Brief A & Map #90 to Team A and Team Brief B & Map #91 to Team B.
- Set up the walkie-talkies for one team (and, if you have two sets of teams, notepaper and pens for the other pair).
- Allow 60 minutes for teams to try and accomplish their objectives.
- Observe teams in action and make notes (to support the debrief) but do not get involved get in helping teams with the task.
- When the time is up, stop the action and ask teams to present their plans.
- Score the plans and announce the scores.
- Lead a Debrief on the issues raised and relate the learning back to how they can be usefully applied in the workplace.

Northgate says...

'Mission Improbable' is all about good communication. Teams that realise they need each other will do well. Teams that are unwilling to share information will fall behind and never quite recover.

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