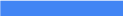


Hands on Activities to Foster Teamwork and Communication



Hands on activities encourage collaboration, trust, and communication in a fun, engaging way. This session will feature four hands on activities that you can take back to your libraries and use with your own staff to help with fostering teamwork and communication.

Why is Teamwork Important?

Teamwork is important because it leverages diverse skills to achieve common goals more efficiently, leading to innovation, increased productivity, better problem-solving, higher job satisfaction, and a stronger organizational culture. By sharing the workload and perspectives, teams can accomplish complex tasks, foster a sense of belonging, and create more effective solutions than individuals working alone.

Key Reasons Why Teamwork is Important:

- 1. Drives Innovation and Creativity**
- 2. Boosts Efficiency and Productivity**
- 3. Enhances Problem-Solving**
- 4. Improves Job Satisfaction and Well-being**
- 5. Aligns Goals**
- 6. Fosters Skill Development**
- 7. Creates a Supportive Environment**
- 8. Supports Growth and Development**

Why is Communication Important?

Communication is essential for teamwork because it aligns everyone toward a common goal, ensures clarity of roles and responsibilities, builds trust and a sense of belonging, prevents misunderstandings and errors, fosters innovation and problem-solving, and ultimately drives higher productivity and team morale. Without effective communication, teams struggle with confusion, missed deadlines, and a lack of cohesion, preventing them from achieving their full potential.

Key Reasons Why Communication is Important:

- 1. Goal Alignment**
- 2. Prevents Misunderstandings**
- 3. Builds Trust and Relationships**
- 4. Enhances Productivity and Efficiency**
- 5. Boosts Morale**
- 5. Boosts Morale**
- 6. Facilitates Problem-Solving and Innovation**
- 7. Supports Growth and Development**

Now...On to the Activities!

Activity One

Spark the discussion with ULEAD Cards.

ULEAD researched and developed these specialized decks of cards to serve as tools for engaging your group and building connections. They're great for quick conversation starters or in-depth team-building challenges. ULEAD cards also provide useful tools for social and emotional learning (SEL) exercises.

EVERY TEAM NEEDS A ...

CARD ITEM: Animal GROUP SIZE: 2-4

PREP: Form small groups. Each group should have one card.

RUNNING: Have each group look at the animal on the top of their card. As a team, create a list of at least three reasons why every team needs that specific animal as their official pet or mascot in order to be more effective. Let group members collaborate on their answers. When the team is finished, share with the other groups their arguments for their animals.

DEBRIEF EXAMPLE: "What did the list show or not show about how you want to work as an organization, a team, or a class?"

ADAPTATIONS: Take this one step further and let teams vote (based on the evidence provided) on the animal that makes the most sense for your group. Come up with a cheer that celebrates that animal by highlighting a movement or sound it may make. Use that cheer to acknowledge people or positive actions.



For more activities, go to uleadinc.org/cards.



Activity Two

The Barter Puzzle



1. Divide into Teams:

Break the team into equal-sized groups.

2. Puzzle Preparation:

Each team receives a distinct jigsaw puzzle of equal difficulty, but some pieces are mixed with other teams' puzzles.

3. The Challenge:

Teams must work together to complete their puzzle, but they can only acquire missing pieces by negotiating with other teams, essentially "bartering" for the pieces they need.

4. Competition and Collaboration:

The first team to complete their puzzle, without the use of force or coercion, is the winner.

5. Debriefing:

After the activity, discuss how teams approached the negotiation, what strategies were most effective, and what they learned about communication and collaboration.

Activity Three

Pyramids



1. Divide into Teams:

Break the team into equal-sized groups.

2. Pyramid Preparation:

Pick a large open area for this game like a hallway, a meeting room, or the cafeteria. Give each team 10 paper cups and a tray. Ask the teams to stand in a line with about 8–10 feet between the team members. Now it's a race against time!

3. The Challenge:

The first person in each line has to build a pyramid with four cups at the base. Once they're done, the second player has to help them carry the pyramid to their station (this can be on the floor or at a table). They can slide it on the floor or carry it together but if the pyramid falls apart, the players have to reassemble it on the spot before continuing their journey. At the next station, the second player has to topple the pyramid and rebuild it before the third player gets to help them carry it to the next station. This continues until the pyramid reaches the last station.

4. Competition and Collaboration:

The team that finishes first wins the game

5. Debriefing:

After the activity, discuss how teams approached the build and the move, what strategies were most effective, and what they learned about communication and collaboration.

Activity Four

Communication Origami



1. Facilitator can read the instructions or the group can be divided into teams:

Can be done as a group or divided into teams.

2. Origami Preparation:

Each person needs a piece of 8 ½ x 11 cardstock paper (for this particular origami). Paper size can fluctuate depending on the origami shape.

3. The Challenge:

Team members listen to folding instructions given aloud by a leader. Each verbal instruction will be another fold of the paper towards a complete origami shape.

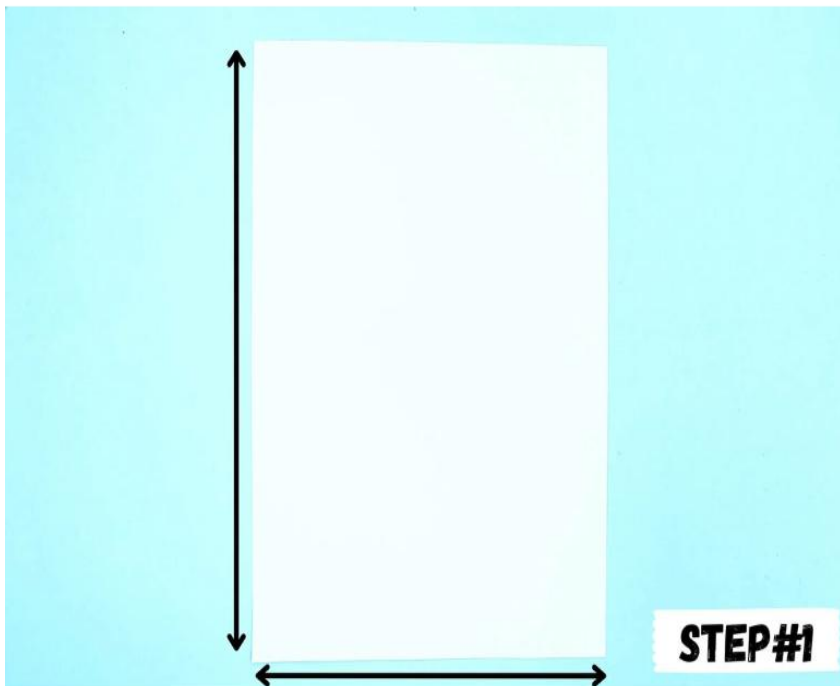
4. Competition and Collaboration:

Once all steps are complete, employees can see just how well they followed instructions! By the end, you will each have a fun new desk decoration, too!

5. Debriefing:

After the activity, discuss how it was to have to follow verbal instructions and how it differs from written instructions (with pictures).

Step 1



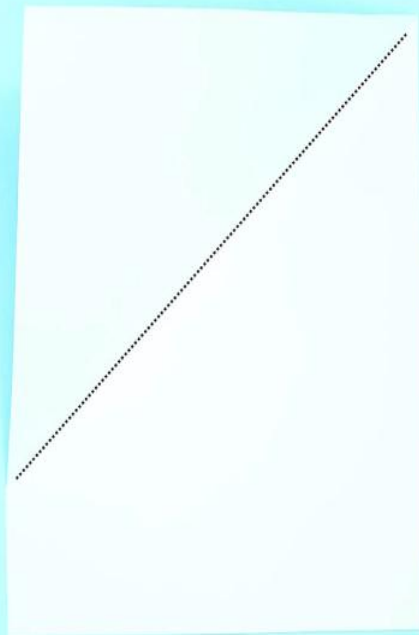
- 1 Start with a rectangular origami paper or a piece of regular paper. An 8.5×11 paper is fine.

Step 2



- 2 Fold the top left corner to the right side, making the top right corner as pointy as possible.

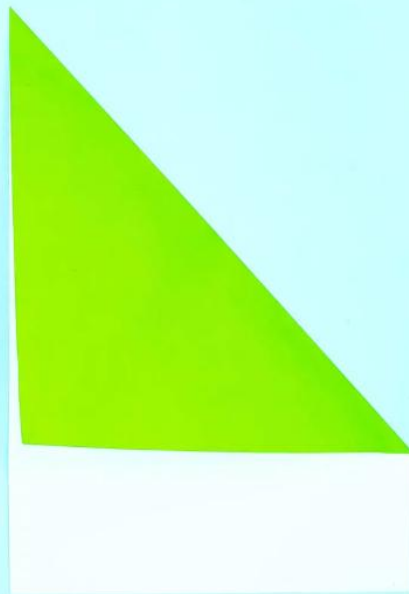
Step 3



STEP#3

3 Unfold. You should now have a crease line where the dotted line goes.

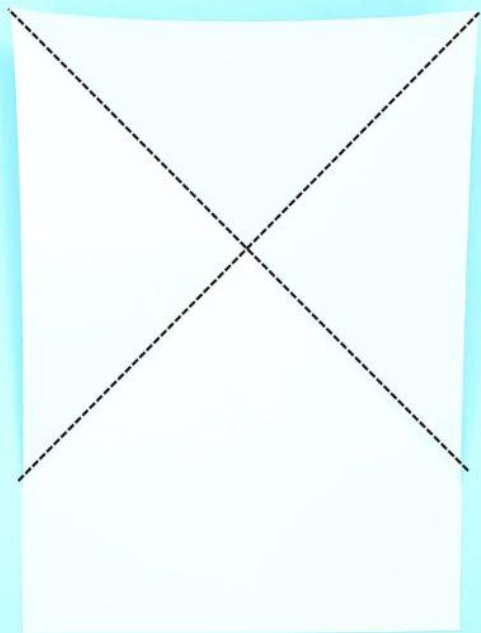
Step 4



STEP#4

4 Fold the top right corner to the left side, making the top left corner as pointy as possible.

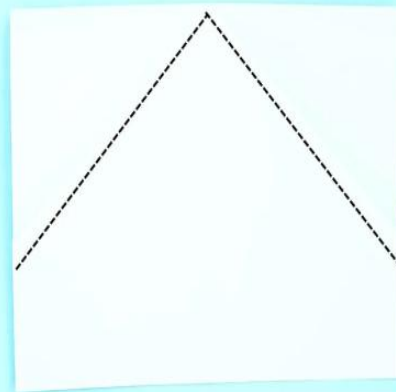
Step 5



STEP#5

5 Unfold.

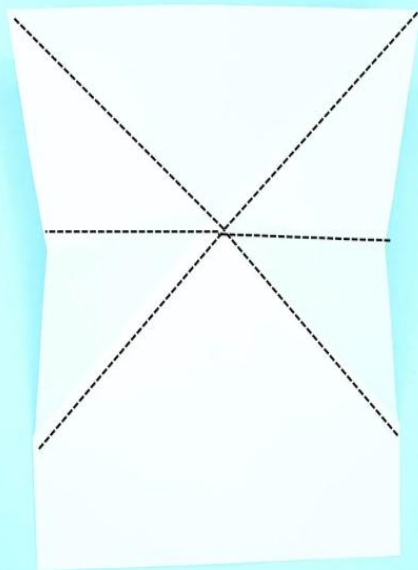
Step 6



STEP#6

6 Fold back the top from where the "X" creases meet.

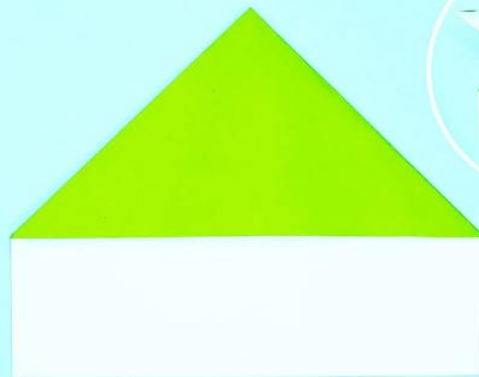
Step 7



STEP#7

7 Unfold the top. You now have three creases.

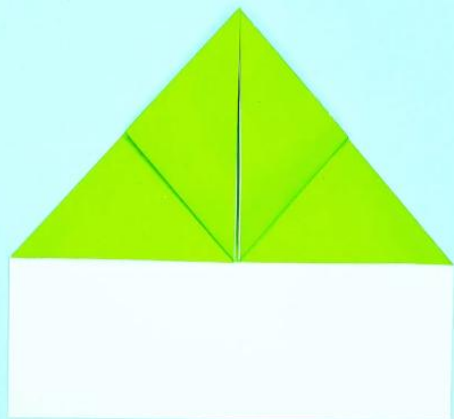
Step 8



STEP#8

8 Bring the creases together to form a triangle at the top.

Step 9



STEP#9

9 Fold the left and right corner of the triangle to the top of the triangle.

Step 10



STEP#10

10 Fold the sides to the center.

Step 11



STEP#11

11 Fold the bottom corners to the corners of the "diamond" on the top.

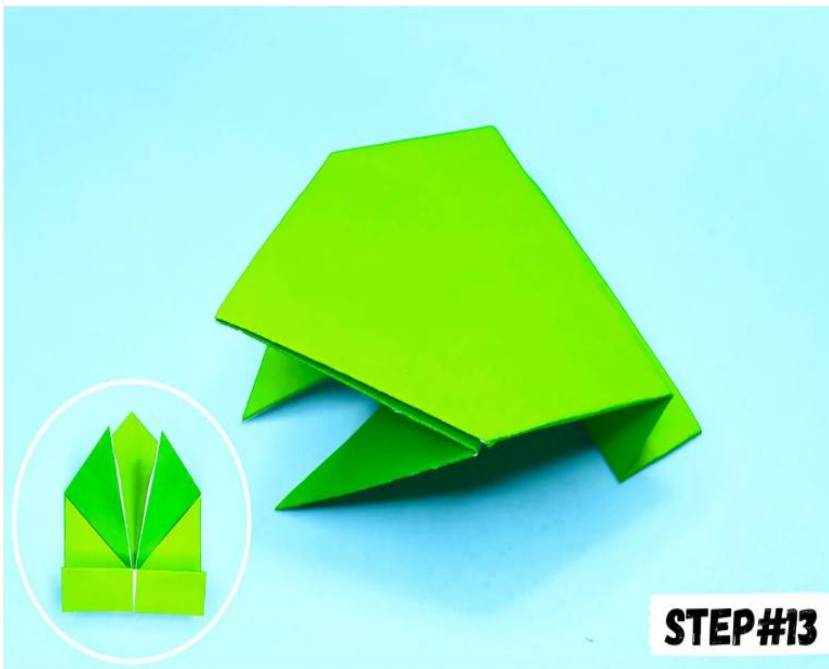
Step 12



STEP#12

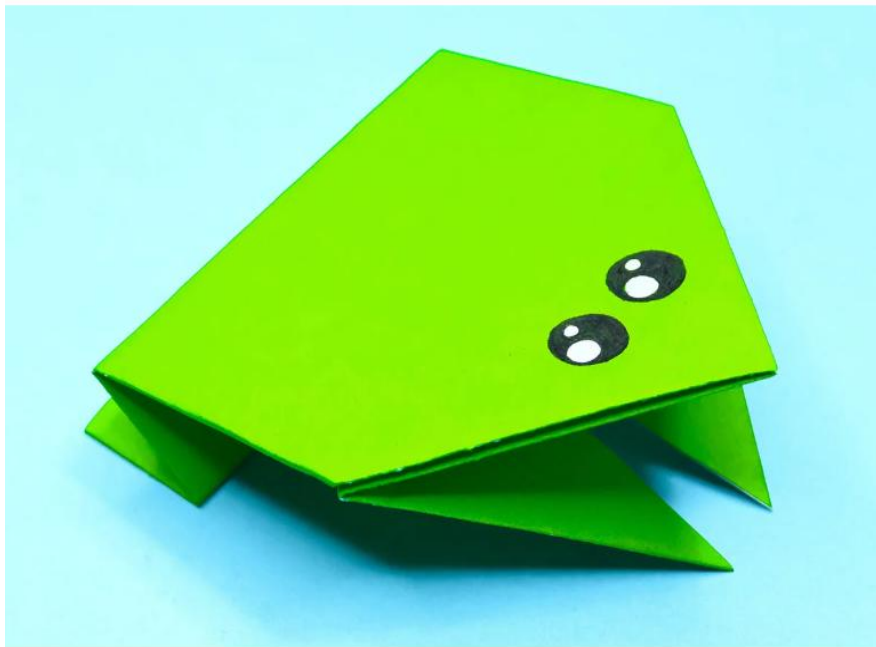
12 Fold the bottom rectangle in half (from the top to the bottom).

Step 13



13 Turn the frog over. Fold the front legs downward a little bit.

Step 14



14 Add some eyeballs. Press down on the edge of the back to make it jump!



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