



Audience: Year 7 students.

Context: in any subject or in tutor time.

Time: approximately 45 minutes.

Resources:

- the PowerPoint slides of student instructions (downloadable from www.teachitcitizenship.co.uk - search for 22681)
- about 30 balloons, pre-inflated (I stored mine in a couple of bin liners at the front of the room.)
- tables and chairs pushed out of the way.

Learning objectives:

- recognise the value of working in a group
- recognise that it is often important to find a solution as a team, rather than as an individual.

Slide 1: Keyword riddle and learning objectives

Answer: teamwork.

Click to reveal the learning objectives.

Slide 2: Task 1 - 10 aspects of teamwork

Differentiation: stronger students could challenge themselves by chairing their group and acting as spokesperson - click to reveal instructions for the chair/spokesperson.

Suggested answers: we know more together than we do individually; we are each good at different things; listening; supporting; encouraging; concentrating; respecting; helping; sharing; taking it in turns; time-keeping; feedback ...

Slides 3-5: Task 2 - three challenges

Students work in silence and observe each other's teamwork skills.

Balloon challenge 1: As a team, find as many ways as possible to keep one balloon in the air. You CANNOT touch it with your hands! You MUST be silent!

Balloon challenge 2: As a team, work together to keep five balloons off the ground at the same time! You **MUST** be silent!

Balloon challenge 3: One balloon must pass smoothly around your circle clockwise. At the same time, the second balloon must move smoothly in an anti-clockwise direction. Remember to work in silence!

Slide 6: Reflection

Why is it vital for people to rely on each other:

- in the police
- in a factory
- in the government
- on the motorway
- in a neighbourhood
- in a school
- in a hospital?

Click to reveal each situation in turn.

Example answers:

Hospital: Someone could get hurt if all the members of the team are not where they are supposed to be at the right time.

Police: If certain police officers are lazy and let everyone else do their work, the police force will become very disorganised; the public will no longer be able to rely upon them.

School: When students work together well in a team, everyone's strengths are used. This means that the group has more skills than any one person in that team has.

Slide 7: Plenary - feedback on the balloon challenges

Question 1

Which strategies were most effective during the balloon challenges?

Think about keywords such as:

adapt; challenge; change; communicate; decide; difficult; help; organise; patience; problem; share; solution.

Suggested answers:

making eye-contact; using body language; watching each other carefully; trusting each other not to drop the balloon(s).

Click to reveal question 2.

Question 2

How are you going to apply what you have learned today in future lessons?

You might want to mention:

- a) how you overcame challenges
- b) who the natural team leaders were
- c) why it was useful to communicate without words.

Suggested answers:

- a) We used good eye contact and learned to trust each other's decisions.
- b) (Depends on students.)
- c) Working without words helped us to understand everyone's personalities better. For example, we noticed that Javone was really helpful every time we dropped the balloon because he was able to describe quickly how we needed to improve - even without words!