

Survivor

Activities for Collaborative Thinking

ICEBREAKERS AND TEAM BUILDERS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

OBJECTIVES

- To use innovation and design to solve a problem
- To build teamwork

MATERIALS

- Three tennis balls
- A plastic baby doll or a large stuffed animal
- For this activity, each group will need a paper bag with the following:
 - Two large garbage bags
 - Ten pipe cleaners
 - Five pieces of paper
 - Twenty-five toothpicks
 - Three feet of string
 - One roll of painter's tape

SETUP

- Prepare the materials in bags. You will need enough bags for groups of three participants each.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Divide participants into **groups of three**.
2. **Explain** that **meteorologists are predicting that a horrible meteor storm will hit their community in the next thirty minutes**.
Each group must work together to create a shelter that will somehow protect them from the storm.
3. **Explain** that **since the meteors are made of intergalactic gasses and minerals, the materials in their bags are the only things that won't be burned up in the storm**.
Each group will have twenty minutes to design and build their shelters.

CONTINUED



Survivor continued

Each shelter must be large enough for one small child to fit inside which will be represented by the plastic doll or stuffed animal.

Each shelter will then be tested by a meteor storm prototype that scientists have developed, which will be represented by the tennis balls.

4. **Give participants their materials** and allow them to **begin** working.
5. Float around the room **giving positive feedback** and **validating groups** that practice group agreements and values.
6. When time is up, have each group **stand behind their shelter** while you **place** the doll inside the shelter and proceed **stand on a chair and throw** the three tennis balls at the shelter.
7. A group is **successful** if their shelter remains **standing and unpenetrated** by the balls.

DEBRIEF

- What strategies did you use to construct your shelter?
- What criteria was most important to your group?
- What did you notice about yourself in this activity?