

MARBLE Maze



INTRODUCTION

Group initiative tasks are designed to offer “real” or “perceived” mental, physical, social and emotional challenges that are fun and rewarding. Within a trusting and supportive environment, these challenges are often successfully met through team problem solving.

Implementation of such activities requires careful planning and skillful facilitation on the part of the group leader. Each initiative outlined in the activities that follow present the potential for risk and possible serious injury. It is imperative that staff members incorporate safety measures that are carefully thought out, clearly communicated and consistently reinforced. In addition, it is important that each participant be informed of the potential for such injury should the identified safety procedures not be followed.

Group initiative tasks provide the opportunity to develop valuable skills like teamwork, leadership, problem solving, trust and communication. You and your students will have many memorable and meaningful experiences with this exciting learning tool!

The Staff at Everlast Climbing Industries



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1.800.476.7366

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MARBLE Maze

STUDENTS WORK AS A TEAM TO MOVE A LARGE
MARBLE THROUGH A MAZE



MARBLE MAZE ACTIVITY #1



MATERIALS NEEDED:

Marble Maze Base, included
Marble Maze Insert(s), included
Marble (large), included



PRIOR TO ACTIVITY:

Choose which Marble Maze insert you wish students to use.



THE ACTIVITY:

Show students the Marble Maze and where the maze begins and ends. Their job is to work as a team to get the large marble from the start to the finish without it falling into one of the six holes. If the marble falls into a hole, someone must remove it and place it back at the start. Students may only hold onto the handles. The marble may only be touched when removing it from a hole is required. Once students have success, they should attempt Activity #2.



SAMPLE PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

1. Describe how your group worked together on this task.
2. Give several examples of group cooperation that you observed/experienced.
3. What was the most challenging thing about this activity?
4. What did you learn from this activity?
5. If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?



CONCEPTS:

Problem Solving, Teamwork, Patience, Communication, Perseverance and Cooperation.



VARIATIONS:

1. Place a time limit for successfully completing the Marble Maze.
2. Use a stopwatch and have students try to complete the maze more quickly.
3. Try a different Marble Maze insert.
4. Place a Magna® Peg on the side of the Marble Maze base each time a marble falls into a hole. In other words, the marble can fall into a hole only six times.
5. Place two Magna® Pegs next to each other inside the maze to shorten the maze or to create a "pause point" in the activity.
6. To increase difficulty, do not allow students to speak to one another.
7. Allow only one person to speak and direct the group.



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MARBLE Maze

STUDENTS WORK AS A TEAM TO MOVE A SMALL MARBLE THROUGH A MAZE, WITH THE HELP OF PEGS.



MARBLE MAZE ACTIVITY #2



MATERIALS NEEDED:

Marble Maze Base, included
Marble Maze Insert(s), included
Marble (small), included
Magna® Pegs, included



PRIOR TO ACTIVITY:

Choose which Marble Maze insert you wish students to use. Place Magna® Pegs in front of each large hole.



THE ACTIVITY:

Note: Successful completion of Activity 1 is required prior to attempting this activity.

Review the Marble Maze with students, showing them where the maze begins and ends. This activity is more challenging than Activity 1 because students are attempting to get the small marble through the maze and there are more holes into which it can fall. We suggest blocking the large holes with the Magna Pegs® so that students can work towards the greater challenge of using only the small marble in Activity 3. Like in Activity 1, the students' job is to work as a team to get the marble from the start to the finish without it falling into the holes. If the marble falls into a hole, someone must remove it and place it back at the start. Students may only hold onto the handles. The marble may only be touched when removing it from a hole is required. Once students successfully get their marble through the maze, have them proceed to Activity 3.



SAMPLE PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

1. Describe how your group worked together on this task.
2. Did your group work differently from Activity 1? If so, how?
3. Give several examples of group cooperation that you observed/experienced.
4. What was more challenging about this activity?
5. What new things did you learn from this activity, compared to Activity 1?
6. If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?



CONCEPTS:

Problem Solving, Teamwork, Patience, Communication, Perseverance and Cooperation.



VARIATIONS:

1. Place a time limit for successfully completing the Marble Maze.
2. Use a stopwatch and have students try to complete the maze more quickly.
3. Try a different Marble Maze insert.
4. To increase difficulty, do not allow students to speak to one another.
5. Allow only one person to speak and direct the group.



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STUDENTS WORK AS A TEAM TO MOVE A SMALL MARBLE
THROUGH A CHALLENGING MAZE.



MARBLE MAZE ACTIVITY #3



MATERIALS NEEDED:

Marble Maze Base, included
Marble Maze Insert(s), included
Marble (small), included



PRIOR TO ACTIVITY:

Choose which Marble Maze insert you wish students to use.



THE ACTIVITY:

Note: Successful completion of Activity 2 is required prior to attempting this activity.

Review the Marble Maze with students, showing them where the maze begins and ends. This activity is the most challenging of them all because there are more holes into which the marble can fall. As before, the students' job is to work as a team to get the marble from the start to the finish without it falling into one of the holes. If the marble falls into a hole, someone must remove it and place it back at the start. Students may only hold onto the handles. The marble may only be touched when removing it from a hole is required.



SAMPLE PROCESSING QUESTIONS:

1. How did your teamwork differ on this task compared with the other activities?
2. What are some examples of group cooperation that you observed/experienced?
3. What was the most challenging part of this activity? Why?
4. What was the most rewarding aspect of this activity? Why?
5. Name and describe a feeling you experienced during this activity.



CONCEPTS:

Problem Solving, Teamwork, Patience, Communication, Perseverance and Cooperation.



VARIATIONS:

1. Place a time limit for successfully completing the Marble Maze.
2. Use a stopwatch and have students try to complete the maze more quickly.
3. Try a different Marble Maze insert.
4. Place a Magna® Peg on the side of the Marble Maze base each time a marble falls into a hole. In other words, the marble can fall into a hole only six times.
5. Place two Magna® Pegs next to each other inside the maze to shorten the maze or to create a "pause point" in the activity.
6. To increase difficulty, do not allow students to speak to one another.
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TEAM BUILDING RUBRIC



Name: _____ Date: _____

	Needs Improvement	Making Progress	Proficient	Not Assessed
Demonstrates interest in the activity				
Displays a positive attitude				
Demonstrates best effort				
Contributes ideas to help group succeed				
Communicates thoughts and feelings appropriately				
Works well with others				
Demonstrates leadership skills				
Supports and encourages others				
Listens respectfully to others				
Participates in group processing and reflection activities				
Follows rules and procedures				



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