

# Co-operation



- Purpose:** To work together to complete a task
- Group Size:** Teams of 2-4 people
- Skills:** Co-operation, problem solving, negotiation, coordination, self-control and communication
- Space:** Tabletop space for multiple teams
- Ages:** 8 & up
- Supplies:** Six paper or plastic cups per team, medium-sized rubber bands, string or wool

## Directions

Before playing, prepare enough rubber band tools for the group. Split the group into teams; plan for four players per tool and one for each string. (Depending on the number of people in the whole group, it is also possible for pairs to play together or to use four players with an observer or two.)

To make the rubber band tool, cut four arm-length pieces of string and tie them to a rubber band, spaced evenly.



To see how this game is played go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=teJbh-dxHTQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teJbh-dxHTQ)

This game is easier to demonstrate than to explain, so use four volunteers and invite the rest of the group to gather around the group to watch. Place six cups and the rubber band tool on the table—or floor space—in the middle of the volunteers. Give each volunteer one string and explain that they must use the tool to stack the cups into a tower. Have the group try to move one cup, and point out how each member of the group must adjust the tension they place on the string in order for it to work effectively.

After the group moves one cup, have them stop. Explain that each group will first try to stack the cups into a tower before being given additional challenges.

Ask if there are questions. If not, space groups evenly around the room and distribute supplies. Rotate around each group observing different strategies and giving new challenges, when appropriate.

## Variations

Each group will finish at a different pace. Be prepared to have additional challenges ready. It is also possible to spread the variations out over time, so that each time a group plays they will have a new challenge.

Some variations include the following:

- Stack cups in a tower.
- Stack cups in a pyramid: three on bottom, two in the middle, one on top.
- Have the group create a unique structure, then recreate it using the rubber band tool.
- Stack cups without talking.
- Stack cups with one or more players blindfolded.
- Stack cups with all players blindfolded, guided verbally by observers standing behind them.

Each variation will have its own unique challenges and will require a different set of skills.

Make sure to call attention to these differences during the debrief.

## Discussion Questions

How did you complete the task?

What needed to be done to complete the task?

What did your group struggle with? How was your group successful?

Was there a leader in your team? Did your team leader step up as the leader, or, were they elected?

Why was it important to work together as a team?

What does it mean to work together with others?

What skills did you use to make this activity successful?

