Group Construction

Equipment

Three sets of four items each (or four sets of three items each) from nature (e.g., sticks, rocks, leaves, grass, branches)—enough for each team member to have an identical set of 12 items

Starting Position

Each team gathers together and tries to reach consensus on what items to use.

The Challenge

Each team must agree on what items to use, then collect the items (each member needs to have the same 12 items). The team members then use the items in an effort to build identical structures.

Rules

1. Only the construction manager may speak.

2. The construction manager must give directions one item at a time.

3. No one may look at the construction manager’s design or at any other builder’s design before completion.

4. The construction manager may not look at the builders’ designs before completion. After the construction manager gives the direction for the last item, the builders and the construction manager look at each other’s designs. How many designs exactly match the construction manager’s design?

Completion of the Task

The challenge is complete when the construction manager has explained the placing of the last item. Ideally, everyone on the team has produced the same design!