

Balloon Trolleys

“Balloon Trolleys” is a fun problem-solving activity. It can be simple to set up, but difficult to accomplish.

General Instructions

Give each person in the group one balloon. All balloons are to be blown up and tied off. Instruct the group that they are to get their balloons from a designated Point A (typically a line on one side of the room) to a designated Point B (a line on the other side of the room). Once they cross the Point A line they may not touch the balloons with arms, legs, or mouths. If any one balloon touches an off limits body part, the floor, a wall, or any furniture, they must start over.

Framing

The activity may be presented just as is and used to develop group problem-solving skills. You may choose to tell a story related to a topic you are studying.

Alternatives

You may make the problem a bit easier by giving the group one less balloon than the number of people.

You may make it more difficult by putting obstacles between Points A and B.

This activity lends itself to greater difficulty by making group select members blind or mute.