

Toxic Frog

This is a fun, energising activity – we’ve seen it work best when you ask a team to do this physically (rather than just a mental exercise). It’s good to use as a break in activity when a group is ready for something different to stimulate their thinking.

You’ll see we’ve included a more in-depth review process as this exercise can be used as a fun way of looking at how people work together if you are working with a team.

The brief is reproduced on page 3 of this document to make it easier for you to use.

Brief:

2 teams of frogs want to cross the lily pond in opposite directions. There is one spare lily pad between them; they must use lily pads because the water is toxic.

- A lily pad can only support one frog
- Each frog can step forward onto an adjacent empty pad
- Each frog can also hop over one other frog to an empty pad just beyond it
- Frogs cannot step or hop backwards or turn around
- Only one frog can move at a time.

Frog Frog Frog Frog Pad Frog Frog Frog Frog



Prompt questions for your review

It's worth observing and making notes of comments/moments during this exercise so that you can highlight them in the review (there are often some things that will cause both laughter and learning!)

A few questions to consider:

- What worked well?
- What worked less well?
- How effectively did you collaborate to achieve the objective?
- How did you deal with frustration?
- To what extent was everyone involved?
- How does this mirror what you see going on in your team? (if this is an intact team)

More in depth review (allow 20-30 mins depending on the size of the group)

If you have time and want to use this as learning exercise to enhance team working, you could use a review approach we've found useful.

Ask each person to give a score from 1 to 5 (low to high) in response to the following:

1. How well did we do in terms of achieving the task?
2. How well did we work together as a team to achieve the task?

Then ask them to also write down an adjective to describe each person in the group during the task (including themselves).

Gather all the responses onto a flip chart –

First gather the scores for each question.

Then gather the adjectives.

You can then explore this further with the group – e.g. insights, surprises. What would have helped us to work together more effectively?

Answer

This can be a bit mind-bending, contact me using any means from the contact details below if you would like to talk it through. Good luck!

If Frogs are labelled A & B and 1 to 4 you can see how they move alternating between one stepping forward 1 space and others jumping over (like draughts)

B4	B3	B2	B1		<-A1	A2	A3	A4
B4	B3	B2		A1	B1(hops)	A2	A3	A4
B4	B3	B2->		A	B1	A2	A3	A4
B4	B3	A1(hops)	B2	A2(hops)	B1		A3	A4
B4	B3	A1	B2	A2	B1	A3<-		A4
B4		A1	B3(hops)	A2	B2(hops)	A3	B1(hops)	A4
	->B4	A1	B3(hops)	A2	B2(hops)	A3	B1(hops)	A4
A1(hops)	B4	A2(hops)	B3	A3(hops)	B2	A4(hops)	B1	
A1	B4	A2	B3	A3	B2	A4		B1
A1		A2	B4(hops)	A3	B3(hops)	A4	B2(hops)	
A1	A2<-	A3(hops)	B4	A4(hops)	B3		B2	B1
A1	A2	A3	B4	A4		B3	B2	B1
A1	A2	A3	A4		B4(hops)	B3	B2	B1

Thanks to Jon Dean of Celebrate the Corners for introducing me to this.

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Feel free to print or forward this resource in its entirety, but please ensure you include the Eye 2 Eye Development logos and authorship when doing so. Thank you!

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