

Activity: Digital Treasures

Overview

Digital Treasures is a team-oriented scavenger hunt with a camera. Following clues and riddles, teams must track down and take pictures of the exact same objects presented by the facilitator. The angle, distance, and orientation must be as close to the original as possible, and everyone must be involved in the process. *Digital Treasures* is an easy yet powerful activity that allows participants to learn to compromise and collaborate, and to understand how to evaluate the priorities needed to work together. In addition, it teaches participants to become aware of the conflict management styles and techniques used by members of their group.

Set Up

Props

- 1–4 Digital cameras or Polaroid cameras
- 4–8 Printed images shot on location in the work area
- 1 Set of treasure hunt clues per group

Prior to the event, the facilitator must identify four to eight locations within a specified area (indoors or outdoors). At each location, the facilitator must take a close-up digital snapshot of something that is only recognizable once someone is at the site (e.g., just a corner of an object).

Treasure hunt clues should be created to help the groups find each location. For example, the clue could be a riddle or a word puzzle. It is more difficult for groups to find locations when they are unfamiliar with an area. Take this into consideration when writing clues. Each treasure hunt clue list should be ordered in such a way so that groups are not at the same location at any given time.

Instructions

1. Divide your group into teams of 4 to 8 and distribute one camera and camera instruction manual per group.
2. Remind participants to keep the cameras safe throughout the activity.
3. Inform participants they will be on a most unique scavenger hunt—a hunt for still images.
4. Before the teams take off with cameras in hand, participants have an opportunity to study the original 4–8 snapshots taken earlier by the facilitator.
5. Participants must use the clues sheet to find the location where each picture was taken, and then take the exact same picture paying close attention to orientation, zoom, angle, and distance.

The following rules also apply:

1. Groups must take pictures in the order of clues given to them.
2. They can only work with their own team.
3. Photos may not be taken of the originals provided by the facilitator.
4. Groups must return by a specified time (of your choosing). When the groups return, allow time for them to share their work with each other.
5. At each location, the group has an assignment that relates to collecting information from whoever is around that will help them understand how those people deal with conflict, including how they avoid it, how they confront it, how they feel about it, and what they do to resolve it.

Sample Story Line

You are a group of sleuths on the case of an unresolved conflict. You are trying to piece together the recent facts associated with an incident, now in the history books of this school. You will be able to resolve this case if you can recapture the images of that day. To do this, you need to understand the nature of conflict as seen through the eyes of those present on that day.

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Safety

General safety precautions apply. Remind groups not to run from place to place, and to take care of the cameras!

Variations

You may wish to eliminate the cameras and take this approach. Challenge teams to find an object at a specific location instead of capturing the image. The description of the object should be a bit ambiguous to encourage conversation regarding which object it could be. For example, the description may read “yellow, soft, and useful.” In this location you may place a yellow flower, a banana, and a yellow sponge. Each team must then decide which one is the object being described.

Reflection

This activity has the potential to bring out conflict in a variety of ways. First, there is the potential conflict over translating clues when there is more than one meaning to something. Personality and perceptual differences will surface. The intuitive thinkers will respond quite differently than the sensory-oriented people. There is also the potential for conflict over the pictures taken, and what constitutes an “exact” replication of the originals. Is “close enough” good enough?

Discover

- What was this experience like for your team?
- If conflicts or differences in style arose, how did your team move beyond them in order to be successful?
- What leadership skills supported your success?
- Did you have differences of opinion as to what counted as “identical” photos? How did you resolve this conflict?
- What strengths did you bring to the group? What strengths did others bring? How did the group benefit by having all of the strengths?
- How did you build rapport with others in order to ask them about conflict? How easy was it to gather data?

Connect

- What did you learn about conflict from others?
- What did you learn about yourself with regards to your style? What did you learn about others?
- How is this activity similar to other life situations? Explain.

Create

- How will you apply what you have learned from this activity?
- What is most important to you when working through conflict?
- If you were to constantly employ this belief in your work, school, and relationships, what would the quality of your life be like?