

TITLE: Asset #32 Planning and Decision Making - - - LOST ON THE MOON

CHARACTER BUILDING QUALITIES: Cooperative, Citizenship, Cheerful, Polite, Tolerance, Ambitious, Dependable, Self-Respect, Punctual, Resourceful, Perseverance, Self-Control, Trustworthy, Loyal, Considerate, Respect, Courageous, Optimistic, Initiative, Responsible.

OBJECTIVE(S):

The students will participate in the decision making process.

TIME: 20 Minutes

NEEDED MATERIALS: "Lost on the Moon" sheet, pencil

INTRODUCTION:

Decisions are made all of the time. Practicing the decision making process will help students have good decision making skills when the time comes to make a decision.

ACTIVITY:

1. Divide the students into groups of five.
2. Tell students that today's activity will focus on the decision-making process.
3. Distribute the Lost on the Moon (first page only) worksheet.
4. Tell the students to work as a group - - - that the answers must be agreed to by EVERY member of the group.
5. Tell the students not to be unduly stubborn, but neither should they give in simply to speed the work of the group. Often one hard-headed member can same an entire group from making a serious error.
6. Distribute the second page of the worksheet.

LESSON CLOSURE: Summarize the activity by asking the following questions:

1. How did your group go about dealing with conflicts and disagreements?
2. Which members felt that they had to give in to group opinion?
3. Was this good or bad?
4. Would taking a vote on each item have been easier/better?
5. Would voting have been as effective?
6. Why is vote-taking necessary?
7. Is voting always desirable?

LOST ON THE MOON WORKSHEET

You are in a space crew originally scheduled to rendezvous with a mother ship on the lighted surface of the moon. Mechanical difficulties, however, have forced your ship to crashland at a spot some 200 miles from the rendezvous point. The rough landing damaged much of the equipment aboard. Since survival depends on reaching the mother ship, the most critical items available must be chosen for the 200-mile trip. The fifteen items left intact after landing are listed below. Your task is to rank them in terms of their importance to your crew in its attempt to reach the rendezvous point. Place number 1 by the most important item, number 2 by the second most important, and so on through the least important, number 15:

- _____ Box of matches
- _____ Food concentrate
- _____ 50 feet of nylon rope
- _____ Parachute silk
- _____ Portable heating unit
- _____ Two .45 caliber pistols
- _____ One case dehydrated milk
- _____ Two 100-pound tanks of oxygen
- _____ Stellar map of the moon's constellation
- _____ Life raft containing CO₂ bottles
- _____ Magnetic compass
- _____ 5 gallons of water
- _____ Signal flares
- _____ First-aid kit containing injection needles
- _____ Solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter

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Below are the correct rankings for the items, as determined by the space-survival unit of NASA:

- 15 Box of matches (little or no use on the moon)
- 4 Food concentrate (supply daily food required)
- 6 50 feet of nylon rope (useful in tying injured, help in climbing)
- 8 Parachute silk (shelter against sun's rays)
- 13 Portable heating unit (useful only if party landed on dark side)
- 11 Two .45 caliber pistols (self-propulsion devices could be made from them)
- 12 One case dehydrated milk (food, mixed with water for drinking)
- 1 Two 100-pound tanks of oxygen (fills respiration requirement)
- 3 Stellar map of the moon's constellation (one of the principal means of finding directions)
- 9 Life raft (CO₂ bottles for self-propulsion across chasms, etc.)
- 14 Magnetic compass (probably no magnetized poles; thus, useless)
- 2 5-gallons of water (replenishes loss by sweating, etc.)
- 10 Signal flares (distress call within line of sight)
- 7 First-aid kit containing injection needles (oral pills or injection medicine valuable)
- 5 Solar-powered FM receiver-transmitter (distress signal transmitter, possible communication with mother ship)