

Connectagons

Professional Development Game

OVERVIEW

This activity uses a collaborative construction challenge to help professionals build relationships across their institution or with other community organizations. The activity explores the challenges and rewards of working with others, especially in a diverse team of people. We all have knowledge, ideas, and skills that we can share and we all can learn from others.



MATERIALS

- Connectagons® or similar building set with interlocking pieces

Building sets can be purchased online from toy and discount retailers.

GAME RULES

Gather 4–6 people. Each person receives around ten construction pieces.

You have five minutes to work together to build a structure. Your goal is to create something that is strong, beautiful, and at least two feet tall (60cm).

Take turns adding one piece at a time to the structure. You cannot remove any pieces from the sculpture—you must work with what has already been built.

When five minutes is up, assess your creation. Does it meet the three criteria? Is it strong, beautiful, and tall?

FACILITATION NOTES

This activity is primarily intended for professionals who work in cultural organizations such as museums and their community partners. You can use this challenge in a variety of professional settings. For example, you can use it at a staff meeting as a teambuilding activity or at a community meeting as an icebreaker.

This game should be played in groups of 4–6 people. If you have a large group, split up into smaller groups. One game set has enough pieces for multiple groups to play at once.

Introduce the activity by going over the challenge and the rules. Set a timer or have someone watch the time—it will go by surprisingly quickly. Some teams may want to play again to improve their performance.

DEBRIEF

After the game is over and the teams have talked over how it went, debrief the experience. Possible discussion questions include:

- How did your team assess your performance? Did you meet the goals?
- What was challenging about this activity? What was fun?
- How did each of you contribute knowledge, skills, and ideas to the group process?
- How does this activity relate to collaborative projects that you have been part of?

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Image of educators doing the activity copyright Arizona State University.

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