

MONTANA

The mice have come to Montana to visit their DI friends. They had very good directions and arrived at the right place at the right time, but that doesn't always happen. It is really a problem for the first explorers to a region. Lewis and Clark would have had a terrible time without Sacagawea! Can you create a communication system to guide someone through the wilderness?

Set-Up: Construct an obstacle course from chairs, tables, boxes or whatever is at hand. Team members should not see this course until Part Two.

Challenge: Invent a set of signals based on a very small number of words that can be used to guide someone through an obstacle course. That person will be blindfolded!

Time: Part One: You will have 3 minutes to develop a code that includes **only** the first five numbers in English (“one, two, three, four, five”). This code will be used in Part Two to guide half of your team through an obstacle course while they are blindfolded.

Part Two: Appraisers should select and blindfold half of the team before **any** team members see the obstacle course. The other half of the team can then examine the course. They will have 2 minutes to guide their blindfolded team members through the obstacle course using **only** the verbal code developed in Part One.

Materials: enough bandanas to blindfold half of the team
a variety of obstacles

Scoring: up to 30 points for creativity of the code
25 points if all blindfolded team members make it all the way through the obstacle course before the end of Part Two
20 points if no team member says anything except for the code words during Part Two
up to 25 points for positive team work

Idea contributed by Kim McIntyre, expatriate from Maine. Thanks!