

*Title of Lesson:* Trash or Treasure

*Curriculum Unit:* Communication

*Objective:* To enhance communication skills; to recognize the value of individual contributions to develop a product

*Materials:*

For each group you will need:

- 4 balls
- 5 pipe cleaners
- 4 straws
- 1 handkerchief/bandana
- 1 plate
- 1 crayon
- 8 toothpicks

*Directions:*

1. Divide the class into small groups of 3–5 students.
2. Give each group the items listed above and ask them to observe the materials. Tell the groups they will have two minutes to decide amongst themselves what product they will create using all the materials. It must have a name and a function.
3. Allow three minutes for groups to create their products. Once they begin building they may no longer communicate verbally.
4. Call time after three minutes and have each group verbally present its product, giving it a name and describing its function.

*Sample Processing Questions:*

- How did your group work together to accomplish the task?
- Why were you required to use all materials?
- Is your creation trash or treasure? If it's trash, how could you make it treasure?
- How did you feel about not being able to talk?
- What challenges did not being able to talk present?

- What methods did you use to communicate since you were unable to speak?
- What part did each person contribute to getting the job done?
- Did one main leader emerge?
- How was conflict handled?
- What are the connections between this activity and real life?

Created by: Conni Morton, Ana Loya, and Stacy Leonard at the third TASSP/TASC Student Leadership Course Teacher Academy, July 2011