



Time
Required:
30 minutes

Grade Level:
6-8th grades

Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace Activity

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Last Modified: 04/13/11

“Human over Hand” Activity

Infusionomics Themes, Keystone Economic Principles, and Skills for the 21st Century Marketplace:

- **THEME: COSTS**

- **Skills:** 7. Critical Thinking; d. Solve Problems; i. Solve different kinds of non-familiar problems in both conventional and innovative ways
- **Skills:** 8. Contextual Learning; b. Flexibility; iii. Understand, negotiate and balance diverse views and beliefs to reach workable solutions, particularly in multi-cultural environments

- **THEME: RESOURCES**

- **Keystone Economic Principle™ #6:** Do what you do best, Trade for the rest
- **Keystone Economic Principle™ #8:** Quantity and quality of resources impact living standards
- **Skills:** 14. Creativity and Innovation; 14.a-c
- **Skills:** 17. Communication and Interpersonal Skills; b. Teamwork
- **Skills:** 17. Communication and Interpersonal Skills; d. Dealing with Conflict

- **THEME: INCENTIVES**

- **Keystone Economic Principle™ #5:** Incentives produce “predictable” responses

** For additional standards and content references, please see the [end of document](#).

Overview:

In the Human over Hand activity, an even number of students hold the ends of an 18” rope and attempt to tie a knot in the center of the rope without anyone letting go. Groups race to see which group can complete the task first.

Objectives:

In this activity, students will work on teamwork and communicating in a high-pressure situation.

Materials and Handouts:

18” rope for each group (groups of 4-6 students)

Activity:

- Split the class into groups of 4-6 students. Give each group an 18" rope.
- Have half of each group hold one end of the rope and the other half hold the other end.
- Then tell the students that they must tie a knot in the center of the rope without anyone letting go. Whichever group finishes first wins.

Writing Prompt or Class Discussion:

Here are some optional questions for writing prompts and/or class discussion.

- Ask the students for general feedback on the activity.
- Questions on teamwork:
 - What did you learn about teamwork from this exercise?
 - What was the hardest part of the task?
 - Did you all have to agree upon a course of action in order for your team to make progress? What if one side wanted to do it one way, and the other side wanted to do it the other way? Would that work?
 - How did you agree upon your next move? Was there compromise involved?
 - What if one member decided that he/she didn't want to do anything? Could your team have accomplished the task?
 - Did someone take a leadership role?
- Questions on how this exercise applies to real life:
 - What kinds of situations in life do we have to work/make decisions in teams or groups?
 - What makes teamwork difficult in these situations?
 - How should teams make decisions in these situations? Is compromise necessary?
 - What makes a good teammate?
 - Can you describe the best example of teamwork you have ever been a part of? The worst? Why were these examples so good or so bad?

Additional Standards and Content References

Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics:

- Standard #9 : Competition and Market Structure
- Standard #10 : Institutions; Legal and Social Framework, Legal Foundations of a Market Economy
- Standard #15 : Economic Growth; Trade-off, Standard of Living, Technological Changes
- Standard #16 : Role of Government; Redistribution of Income, Maintaining Competition, Maintaining Regulation

Partnership for 21st Century Life Skills Concept:

- Learning and Innovation Skills > Communication and Collaboration
- Learning and Innovation Skills > Creativity and Innovation > Think Creatively, Work Creatively with Others
- Learning and Innovation Skills > Creativity and Innovation > Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Life and Career Skills > Flexibility and Adaptability

National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education:

- Ready Skills, D. Communication and Interpersonal Skills; Group Working Relationships (D.23-D.26)

Economics Vocabulary:

- Competition** - Attempts by two or more individuals or organizations to acquire the same goods, services, or productive and financial resources. Consumers compete with other consumers for goods and services. Producers compete with other producers for sales to consumers.
- Economic Equity** - The application of our concepts of what is "fair" or "unfair" and what is "right" or "wrong."
- Goal** - Something a person or organization plans to achieve in the future; an aim or desired result.
- Legal and Social Framework** - The system of laws, institutions, traditions and customs, and incentives that forms the basis of a society and its economy.
- Legal Foundations of a Market Economy** - The laws and institutions that support a market economy; examples include protection of private property and enforcement of contracts.
- Regulation** - Social regulation is the prescription of health, safety, performance, environmental, output and job standards across several industries.
- Special Interest Group** - An organization of people with a particular legislative concern. They work together to gather information, lobby politicians and publicize their concern.
- Trade-off** - The giving up of one benefit or advantage in order to gain another regarded as more favorable.
- Source: *EconEdLink.org* by the Council for Economic Education

Keystone Economic Principles™:

- For more information: http://infusionomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Keystone_Cheat.pdf