CELEBRATE!

March: Being a Team Player

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| **There is no I in TEAM!** **What does that mean to you?** | **Read the Goose Story** **Identify and discuss the teamwork skills that the geese used. \*** | **Space Racers Activity****(K-2,** [**link**](http://spaceracers.org/pdf/a-team-approach-lesson-plan.pdf)**)**  | **Create a Classroom Quilt \***   |
| **Newspaper Tower Activity \***  | **What Makes a Great Team?\*** | **Teamwork Means…****Activity (middle school,** [**link**](http://lessons.atozteacherstuff.com/76/teamwork/)**)** | **Create posters, example:** |
| **Research and discuss a famous person you believe to be a good team player.** | **Creative Colouring Activity \*** | **Create a recipe of a good team player** | **Hula Hoop – On the Spot! Activity \***  |
| **Thank someone for being a Team Player**  | ‘**Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable’ ~ Kenyan Proverb - Discuss** | **How can you CELEBRATE the teams in your school?** | **Sneak a Peek: Communication & Teamwork Activity \*** |

Resources (\*)

Goose Story:

Next autumn, when you see geese heading south for the winter, flying along in a 'V' formation, you might like to know what science has discovered about their flight patterns. Scientists have determined that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "v" formation, the whole flock adds at least 72 percent to the flying range that each bird would have if it flew on its own.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the formation and another goose flies "point." The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gun shots and falls out, two geese fall out of the formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and they then launch out on their own with another formation to catch up with the group.

Newspaper Tower Activity

**Goal:** Problem solving, communication, and teamwork (Group size: 5 students/group)

**Materials:** Newspaper, tape

**Directions:** Provide each team with a pile of newspapers and instruct them to build the tallest free standing tower that they can in 15-20 minutes. Following the building of the structure discuss what contributed to positive teamwork. Suggested questions:

* How did your group get started on the project?
* How was a decision made?
* What are some good ways for a group of student to make decisions together?
* Why is it important for you to be able to work with others and to make decisions as a member of a group?

Classroom Quilt

**Goal:** Each student will choose a special personal event to share with their classmates in making a classroom quilt.

**Materials:** 10 cm squares of white paper, 12 cm squares of coloured paper, scissors, glue, tape, roll of white paper.

**Directions:**

### Brainstorm with the class a list of special events. You might want to start students off with some ideas: a birthday party, a holiday, a sports event, a special visit.

### Have each student draw and/or write about a special event on one of the white squares.

### Then have each student center and paste the completed square on a coloured square.

### When everyone has completed a square, have the students tape/glue the squares into rows to form a quilt pattern.

### To finish the squares, cut out and tape a white border around the quilt. The students can decorate the border.

### Display the quilt and have each student talk about their special event.

What Makes a Great Team?

**Goals:** Students will be able to define teamwork and will develop three or four positive guidelines for working in a group together.

**Materials:** Markers and Bristol board

**Directions:**

* Have the students brainstorm major sports teams in Canada/ New Brunswick.
* Ask the class what they have in common. Then ask ‘What does it mean to be a team?’ (To be able to work together to succeed.) Review what it means to succeed and have goals.
* Put students in group of 3 or 4. Each group is to brainstorm 3 to 5 words that mean teamwork to them and record them on a piece of paper. (5 minutes) Review their suggestions.
* Have each group create their own definition of teamwork – in a sentence or two what does teamwork mean to them. (10 minutes) Have each group share their definition.
* Finish the activity by having each group create three guidelines for working in groups which will help all groups succeed. (5 minutes) Again have each group share their ideas.

Creative Colouring

In this activity each person is part of a team that can make a big project easier and each person contributes his/her own skills to create the big picture.

**Materials:** 12 different coloured markers, large sheet of paper

**Directions:**

* Provide each group member with a different coloured marker and inform them that this will be the only colour they can use for the project.
* The group must now create a picture – no sharing or trading of markers is allowed. Discussion will take place on how they will cooperatively create the picture.
* Discussion questions following the activity:
	+ Was this a difficult task? Why or why not?
	+ How did you work as a group to complete the picture?
	+ Is it easier to do things by yourself or with others?
	+ Why is it important to be able to work with others as a member of a team?

Hula Hoop – On the Spot!

**Goal:** Problem solving, communication, and teamwork

**Materials:** Hula Hoops

* **Game 1:** Spread a number of hula hoops around the gym, one for each student. One person will say ‘change’ and as the students change one hoop spot is removed until only one remains. As the hoops disappear one at a time the students must become creative and work as a team to see that everyone has their feet on a hula hoop.
* **Game 2:** This activity is called Survivor Challenge. Working in teams of 4-5 students each team will receive a certain amount of gym equipment (Suggested materials – 4-6 hula hoops, 2 beanbags and 2 skipping ropes per team). The students and materials must travel from one side of the gym to the other. The only area students are allowed to make contact to the floor is inside the hula hoops, the rest of the gym floor is considered the ocean. Students must work together to get materials and the rest of the team across. Discussion questions:
* What was easy about this game?
* What was hard?
* How did you communicate?
* What would you do differently next time?

Sneak a Peek!

Communication is a key element when working with others on a group project. This activity is a small version of a construction site and the objective is for the students to work as a team to complete a building task.

**Materials:** Building Blocks like Lego® or pattern blocks

**Directions:**

* Create a small structure using the building blocks and hide from view.
* Divide the students into groups of 4. Provide each team with enough building materials so they can duplicate what has been created.
* Ask two members from each team to come at the same time to look at the structure for 10 seconds in order to try and memorize it as much as possible before returning to their respective teams.
* After they return to their teams they will have 2-3 minutes to share what they viewed and instruct their teams on how to build the structure so it looks like the one that is hidden.
* Next, let the other two team members sneak a peek at the structure to add to the first group’s instructions.
* Continue in this pattern until the structure is successfully duplicated.
* Complete the activity using the following discussion prompts:
	+ What parts of this activity involved teamwork?
	+ Why is teamwork important when doing this activity?
	+ How can teamwork help you in your daily life?