

WATER BUCKETS

WHAT TO SAY

Communication is critical to problem solving. It's required to clearly identify and state the problem, generate potential solutions, consider the advantages and disadvantages to each one, and to determine how you will evaluate success – what will it look like when the problem is solved.

WHAT TO DO

Put students into equal teams

Groups fill their 2-liter bottle with as much water as possible in a set amount of time Team with the most water when time is up wins

Provide 1 empty 2-liter bottle (at one end of a field) and supplies to collect water (e.g., cups, sponge, towel, spoons, measuring cups)

Identify some water sources (water fountain, big buckets of water placed around the field)

Create rules (rules can be used to make the game easier or harder): e.g., can't move the 2-liter bottle; only 1 item can be used at a time

Offer groups 5 minutes to strategize

WHAT TO ASK

What went well? What didn't go so well?

How effectively did team members communicate with one another? Give examples.

What strategies were used to solve the problem? To what extent did you make a plan to evaluate how well your strategies were working?

Did anyone get frustrated? How did that affect your ability to communicate, and how did that affect your listening?