

Lava Pit

Big Idea

Lava Pit is a mentally, socially and physically demanding teambuilder.

Materials

- *4 chairs or pylons*
- *An open space about the size of a classroom*

Time

20-60 minutes

The time it takes groups varies greatly depending on how well they work together. Some are unable to do it within an hour and it may even take them several attempts.

Audience

Gr. 4-12

Procedure

In Lava Pit everyone is on the same team working towards the same goal, crossing the imaginary lava pit. The game is set up like this. (IMAGE)

Have all students gathered at one side of the lava pit before you give them the instructions. At this point you set the scene. They are an expedition team on the Hawaiian Islands. When they are returning to base camp they discover a lava pit has emerged and is flowing across the only trail back to camp. With night fall coming and the river of lava growing they must cross. Luckily they have with them one pair of magic lava boots for emergency's like this one. They must find a way to get the entire team across using this one pair of boots.

There are three magic boot guidelines:

- *The magic lava boots only work when you are wearing both boots. You can't have one boot on and hop across*
- *You cannot throw the magic lava boots. They can only be passed on to someone else by tapping your toes together*
- *Each member of the expedition team can only wear the boots once*

Success is getting every member of the expedition team safely across the river of lava. If at any point a team member touches the lava without wearing the boots they must go back to the starting point. No other props, chairs etc. may be used to assist with crossing the pit.

As this is a teambuilder and a challenge posed to the group you should attempt to not intervene with suggestions. However students can and do get really into this challenge and may become frustrated. Be careful not to let disagreements between team members turn into heated arguments. These moments of frustration can be important teachable moments if facilitated effectively. If things are really breaking down don't hesitate to sit the group down and talk about what's working and what's not and what they could do to work better as a team.

Risk Management

- Soccer fields or open forest are great locations for this activity as the ground is generally soft. Do not set up the course on hard surfaces such as pavement or over areas of exposed rock.
- Ensure that students with pre-existing injuries are aware of the physically demanding nature of this challenge.