

Save Steve!

(to be used with Episode 2 of The World of Work podcast series)

Growth Mindset Challenge: Success Takes Time and Effort!

Soft Skills Highlights: Teamwork and Communication

Curriculum tie-ins: ELA and writing (using time-order words, creating a storyboard and summarizing)

This activity puts communication and teamwork skills to the test! Here is the background story that you will share with your learners for this activity:

It is a beautiful day! Steve the friendly worm has decided to take his boat on to the lake. Unfortunately, Steve completely forgot to put on his life preserver! Before Steve knows it, a strong wind has caused his boat to capsize. Steve is holding on for dear life on top of the boat, but his life preserver is underneath it. Can you help Steve by...

1. Turning over his boat
2. Getting Steve back into his boat
3. Putting on Steve's life preserver

Seems easy, right? However, there are some rules to follow!

1. Students may only touch the paperclips. You cannot touch Steve, the boat, or the life preserver with your hands.
2. Students must not let Steve fall into the lake, or he will drown.
3. Students may not injure Steve (for example, by spearing him with a paperclip)

Materials Needed: Each group of students will need...

- One tray or plate (to signify the lake)
- One small plastic cup (Steve's boat)
- One gummy worm (Steve)
- One gummy ring candy (Steve's life preserver)
- One storyboard planning sheet (optional)

How to Use This Activity:

Introduce your students to Steve, his story, and the rules of the activity. It is helpful to talk to students about the ideas of communication and teamwork, and the do's and don'ts of working with others towards a common goal. Once students understand their task, give them time to work together to solve Steve's problem. Have students plan their rescue by completing the storyboard planning sheet. This will encourage students to clearly communicate their ideas to the group, and discuss them together. Using time-order words, students will write out their plan step-by-step with illustrations. Circulate and encourage groups as they come up with their ideas and divide responsibilities among one another. Once their plan has been drafted, students may attempt to rescue Steve. After executing their plan, whether successfully or unsuccessfully, allow time for teams to reflect and share out to the larger group about their teamwork process.

Variations:

Students may jump straight into the activity without planning first. This will require more spontaneous communication and on-the-spot problem solving!

Activity Wrap-Up:

After your groups have had an opportunity to save Steve, debrief with them and discuss the following:

- How is working in a team different from working independently?
- What was difficult about working together on this activity? What was easy?
- What are some important things to remember about working with others?
- How did the growth mindset theme, "Success takes time and effort" reveal itself in this activity?