



Connections Activity



Title/Skill:	River Crossing
Connection Goal:	Personalization: Problem Solving
Grade Level:	9-12
Time Needed:	25 minutes

**This activity is from Teampedia. Click [here](#) for a very detailed description (with pictures) of this activity.

Handouts/Materials Provided:

- Foam Gym squares (can substitute pieces of paper if necessary) (half to two-thirds as many squares as people in the group)
- 2 pieces of rope (or masking tape or 4 cones)
- Several blind folds (optional)

Summary of Activity for the Advisor:

1. Create an imaginary river using ropes or cones. Make the river wide enough to be a challenge for the group to get from one side to the other (look at about 15 – 25 ft.). Distribute the cardboard squares – 1 piece for every 2 people.
2. Explain objective → to get all members of the group safely across the river. They must go as one big group, not multiple smaller ones
3. Stress that everyone must be on the river before anyone can get off the river, forcing the entire group to be engaged at once. Participants cannot touch the water (floor/grass) and therefore must use rafts (cardboard squares) to cross.
4. The water is filled with piranhas. Therefore if someone loses their balance and touches a hand in the water it gets eaten (put behind the back). Same goes for a foot. If a person completely comes off the raft they are gone and since this is a team exercise everyone must start over.
5. Rafts must be in contact with a human at all times or they will be swept away with the current. Once the group has started the process, your role is to take cardboard squares that are “swept away by the current” and to watch for safety issues.
6. The task is complete when all safely reach the shore,

Read/Review/Discuss/Do with students:

- What happened during the process? What worked? What didn't or what hindered the process?
- What leadership was demonstrated during the process? How so? What did you observe?
- What were the individual roles people played? Were members comfortable with their roles?
- Who knew what the process for crossing was? Who didn't? How did you communicate the plans to group members?
- What might the different aspects of the exercise represent in your group: the squares, the river, the loss of squares, the facilitator, etc?
- When the first people rushed off the river and stranded some of you how did that feel?