

Small Group Lego Challenge

How to Play:

1. Prior to the activity, build a model that teams will replicate (but do not show the class).
2. Divide students into groups of three or four. Tell each team the location of their building station.
3. Assign roles to group members—a builder, a looker, and a messenger.
4. Give each team a building kit. The pieces in each kit are all the same size, shape, and color and combine to replicate the model from step 1.



Roles for Group Members:

- **Builder:** The builder can touch the bricks in the team's kit and build the model. He or she cannot leave their building station.
- **Looker:** The looker can enter and exit the room where the LEGO® model is located to examine it as many times as needed. However, the looker cannot go to his/her team's building station or see the model they are constructing.
- **Messenger:** The messenger can go back and forth from the building station to meet with the looker as many times as needed. If the model is in the hallway, the looker is allowed in the hallway and then return to the classroom to communicate with the messenger. The messenger is allowed to go to the hallway but not enter it.

Ending the Game:

The first team to complete their model will call out that they are finished. From that time, the other teams will have 60 seconds to reach a stopping point.

Example:

Here's a sample of one of the models. You'll want to keep it simple!

In this example, groups had to figure out how to approach building the model. The most successful groups started at the bottom and explained the how and why of constructing each layer. Teams had to use specific language—counting the number of studs, observing the exact position of the bricks, etc. They had to figure out how to relay what they had seen in a way that their team members could understand.



As you can see, one team was very close to replicating the model. The only differences between their result and the model were: 1) They used a dark green brick instead of a lime green one; 2) They placed their red brick in a slightly different position. The other two teams had differences as well.

One had all the correct bricks, but reversed the colors on the bottom two layers. The other team lacked a brick but completed the first two layers correctly. The third and fourth layers

were correct bricks, but they turned the bricks the wrong way.



Activity adapted from www.frugalfun4boys.com.