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Getting Started Activities For Cooperative Learning

11-02-2006 04:38 PM

mariana st. paul writes:

Cooperative learning is an essential part of any high school classroom. However, getting teenagers to work together is not always an easy task. After putting students into groups I've found it helpful to give them a fun activity to complete first before asking them to work together to complete the task at hand. Here are two logic puzzles that have worked well for me.

1. You are on a deserted island with a bale of hay, a cow and a fox. You do have a little boat that you can use to get off of the island in as many trips as you need, but here is your problem. You cannot leave the hay with the cow because the cow will eat the hay and you cannot leave the cow with the fox because the fox will eat the cow. How can you get everyone and everything off the island?

Answer: Take the cow and the hay across. Leave the hay and return with the cow. Leave the cow and take the fox across. Leave the fox with the hay and then go back for the cow.

2. There are 2 boys and their dad on an island. Both of the boys weigh 50 pounds and the dad weighs 100 pounds. They have a small boat that can be used to get them off the island but the boat can only hold 100 pounds at a time. They can make as many trips with the boat as they want. How can they get everyone off the island safely?

Answer: Both boys go across, one stays and one goes back to the dad. That boy gets out and sends the dad across alone to the other boy. That boy goes back across by himself, gets the other boy and they cross over together.

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mariama st. paul
Hi everyone! My n
is Mariama Sesay-

Paul and I'm an English Teacher/Literacy Coach at Malcolm X Shabazz H.S. in Newark, NJ. I love teaching helping others grow to love teaching also. I look forward sharing ideas with you and responding to your comment Good luck with your school y and don't hesitate to post a message!