



Team Building and Incentives

KEVA planks are a great resource to have in the classroom for team-building activities. While working together on creative and challenging assignments, students will learn cooperation and communication skills. KEVA challenges can be used to boost self-confidence as well. Most of all, KEVA planks are a fun way to bring students together in mind-stretching activities.

CHALLENGES AND TEAM BUILDING

Here are some quick challenges that will require students to use creativity and coordination. They can be given to individuals or to small groups. Many of these activities work well as team-building exercises. Students who work together without arguing will be more successful than students who do not. Camaraderie is also established as groups plan together and successfully complete their goals.

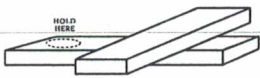
- 1. Build the Tallest Tower (with a limited number of blocks)** For this activity you specify the amount of blocks each student or group will be given—50 to 200 planks can be used depending on the age of the students and the time limit. Have the students count out the amount. In a very competitive crowd, you can then have the students switch piles of KEVA and recount their planks. The student or group that can build the tallest tower with a set amount of planks would win the challenge. You can do this activity with a time limit or without. With a time limit, you will be emphasizing speed. Without a time limit, you will be emphasizing skill in building techniques.
- 2. Build the Widest Bridge Span** Have the students build two columns and challenge them to create the longest span between the columns without a support beneath it. For this activity students will need to have equal number of KEVA planks—50 to 200 planks can be used depending on the age of the students and the time limit. Have the students count out the amount. Again, in a very competitive crowd you can then have the students switch piles of KEVA and recount their planks. You can do this activity with a time limit or without. With a time limit, you will be emphasizing speed. Without a time limit, you will be emphasizing skill in building techniques.
- 3. A Quick Warm-up Activity** Ask students to build a tower taller than themselves in 5 minutes. Fifty to 100 planks will be enough for each student if they are brave and skilled enough to build with the planks on the end.



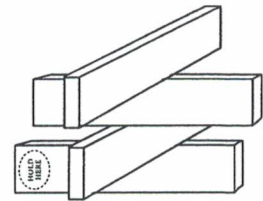
4. Build a Dome Ask students to build a dome that encloses an object. If you have access to a lot of KEVA planks, you can have a group of students build a dome that encloses a student. The captured student will have to break out after the building is completed.

5. KEVA Topple Have students build a tall tower alternating end construction and flat or edge construction. After the tower is 4 feet high or higher, students can see if they can carefully tap away some of the lower planks. The taller the tower, the easier this is to do without toppling the structure. Students can experiment to discover how tall the tower must be, and they can come up with a theory as to why this works.

6. KEVA Relay This activity emphasizes balancing skills using KEVA planks. Have students hold a KEVA plank by its end, flat side up. Balance another plank on top of this one on its flat side or edge. You can begin your relay race from this point or from the point of picking up the plank. The competitors will need to walk a short distance as they keep their planks balanced. If they drop their planks, they must rebalance them before they continue.



7. Balancing Act This activity emphasizes balancing skills using KEVA planks. Have students hold a KEVA plank by its end, flat side up. Balance another plank on top of this one on its flat side. Students can now attempt to add more planks to their stack, all the while holding only one plank by its end. Students can compete against one another, but time should not be a factor because this is a slow and steady activity that takes concentration. You can make this a much harder activity by turning the KEVA planks on their edge. To balance 3 planks on edge is very hard, and 6 is an international record!



8. KEVA Mazes Use KEVA planks to build 3D mazes on the floor of your classroom. This can be done by laying planks flat or on their edge. After one student or group of students have constructed a maze, other students can try to solve the maze using a toy car or plastic figure. Challenge mazes can also be made in the shape of familiar objects.

9. Tower Relay Give each team 200 KEVA planks. Have the students count out the exact amount; opposite teams can verify the counting. The relay will consist of each team building a tower of any shape with their planks. Once their tower is completed using all 200 planks, they will dismantle it without allowing it to topple and reassemble it on the opposite side of the room. They may use only their hands to carry the planks. No shirts can be used as buckets, and no pinning planks against their bodies. The first team to complete the second tower is the winner. The children will be most successful if they work as a team to build, disassemble and carry the KEVA planks. You may want to allow time for the children to



discuss the division of labor before they begin, or you may wish for them to discover this along the way. A variation of this relay can be done by not allowing any talking.

10. Bridge Relay Give each team 200 KEVA planks. Have students count out the exact amount; opposite teams can verify the counting. The relay will consist of each team building a bridge of any shape with their planks. The bridge must span at least three columns. Once their bridge is completed using all 200 planks, they will dismantle it without allowing it to topple and reassemble it on the opposite side of the room. They may use only their hands to carry the planks. No shirts can be used as buckets, and no pinning planks against their bodies. The first team to complete the second bridge is the winner. The children will be most successful if they work as a team to build, disassemble and carry the KEVA planks. You may want to allow time for the children to discuss the division of labor before they begin, or you may wish for them to discover this along the way. A variation of this relay can be done by not allowing any talking.

11. Interconnected Building This can be done with 5 to 30 children. Each student will need about 200 KEVA planks. Have the students form a circle and then sit down with their plank piles. Students should work on the outside of the circle facing inward. Students will be building a tower 6 to 12 inches high. You must determine the height beforehand to ensure uniformity. The easiest thing to do is to build the towers all together as a group to insure the exact height. As one person builds have him or her call out the directions for each row. (*For example: Row #1 = 2 planks laid flat, parallel to one another; Row #2 = 2 planks laid on edge, perpendicular to Row #1.*) These structures should be no more than two plank lengths apart. After this is completed, have the students bridge the towers—each student working in both directions to meet his or her neighbors in the middle. The spans could be made in various ways or a uniform method could be suggested.

