

# Team-Building Activity

## Tropical Island Climate Change Dramatization

### ► Objective

- Students play the role of island inhabitants who must evacuate their island as a result of flooding from sea level rise. In this dramatization the island inhabitants must board a rescue boat (a blanket or tarp). A narrative storyline is provided below.
- Students must flip over the tarp they are standing on without stepping onto the ground.
- This activity builds co-operation, trust, and team decision making, and raises awareness about climate change.

### ► Playing Area

- Indoors or outdoors; an area large enough for a blanket/tarp.

### ► Equipment and Set-up

- Blanket or tarp (your rescue boat!) Choose a size of tarp that will limit the foot space of the participants.
- 1 beach ball

### ► Game Explanation

- Students assume the role of island inhabitants while being guided through a climate change dramatization.
- Narration: *You are residents of a tropical island community in the South Pacific Ocean. You are sitting by the water. All of a sudden you notice the sea level is rising. You think that it must be the tide, but then remember the tide should be out at this time of day. The water continues to come in and begins to flood the island shores and beyond.*
- You find your way back to your home and hear a weather bulletin: 'Because of global climate change and the melting of the polar ice caps, the sea level is rising at a drastic*

*rate. Please evacuate your homes and board a coast guard rescue boat as soon as possible. This is an emergency.'*

- The sea level has risen drastically. The icebergs are melting at twice the speed anticipated. The island community is almost completely flooded. The coast guard has sent rescue boats. Everyone needs to board immediately!*
- Students stand on top of the blanket or tarp. It may need to be folded in half depending on the size of group.
- Now that everyone is safely aboard the lifeboat you begin to calm down—and then a large wave hits the boat, forcing everyone to one side of the boat.*
- The tarp gets folded in half. Students move toward one side of the tarp while it gets folded. This challenges students to keep their entire group on a small area of the tarp (boat) without anyone falling off.
- Everyone starts to get comfortable again, when you notice that the sky turns grey, the winds start to blow, and soon the rains come. All of a sudden, because of the uneven weight distribution, the boat capsizes. In order to survive, your group must work together to flip the boat (tarp) right-side up.*
- The challenge is to bring the boat right-side up (flip the tarp) without anyone touching the ground. Once students have figured out a way to flip the tarp to the reverse side and are all standing safely on the opposite side, they have completed the challenge.\*
- All of a sudden one of you spots a piece of land. Everyone CHEERS!!! and steps off the boat safe and sound. Your community is so relieved to have made it to shore that you come together and form a circle to give each other high fives. You celebrate your feat by playing a game of beach ball in your new community.*
- Students form a circle, give each other high fives, and toss the beach ball around the circle.

-----  
 \* Solution: Students strategize ways to flip the tarp upside down without any members of the team touching the ground. This can be done by moving to one side of the tarp and carefully unfolding the tarp in the opposite direction.  
 -----