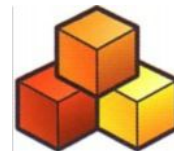




**IOL (UK) Limited & Northgate Training**  
EXERCISES, GAMES & SIMULATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT



## The Colossus Team Activity

Use this highly interactive, team activity to assess your delegates' **VERBAL** communication skills – and much more!



### KEY SKILLS

- Teamwork
- Verbal communication
- Listening
- Questioning
- Sharing Information
- Problem solving

<b>Numbers</b>	Up to four teams
<b>Timing</b>	One hour
<b>Price</b>	£199 plus delivery & VAT

### HOW IT WORKS

In just one hour **The Colossus Team Activity** will mirror all sorts of team communication problems that arise in the workplace – and provide the opportunity for participants to develop better working practices. It can also be used to great effect as a starter to assess performance or as a lively finisher to allow high performing teams to show how it's done!

It's very straightforward. Each team is given a Team Briefing Sheet which explains the situation – teams must answer five questions about the famous Ancient World statue, The Colossus of Rhodes. How high was the statue? In which year was it completed?

Teams also receive a set of cards to be shared out among the team. There are 40 cards in all so one team of five will have eight cards per person. Each card contains a piece of information. Here are some examples:

Card 4	<i>The leg on the right, as you look at the drawing of Colossus, is his left leg.</i>
Card 10	<i>From the stone quarry on Rhodes to the site of Colossus was 90 tanyaks.</i>
Card 25	<i>Toro was born the day they started building in 230BC.</i>

The key rule is that each team member **can tell** the others what is on *their* cards but they **cannot show** them to anyone. In some cases the cards hold vital information – leading to answering the questions. In other cases it might merely be 'helpful' information, or it might even be irrelevant (never misleading or wrong).

**With 40 pieces of information to untangle in a limited time, teams will need good organisational skills, good communication skills, and above all, good team skills to achieve a successful outcome.**

Which of the five questions should they tackle first (the answers to some questions are required before others can be addressed)? Which bits of information relate to which questions? What is the best way to go about the task? Is the whole team in agreement? Can teams provide all the answers *within the time limit*?

## TEAM COMMUNICATION ISSUES

A number of communication problems arise around the withholding of information, garbled and misinterpreted verbal communication, two or more people talking at any one time, not listening properly and making assumptions. These all provide lots of material for the debrief and a platform for discussing ways of improving.

Teams should see the need to plan a strategy, ensure everyone has a say (value every team member's contribution), and be keen to identify individual skills of the team members.

In just one hour **The Colossus Team Activity** will mirror a whole variety of communication and teamwork problems that arise at work – and provide a fun environment in which to develop better working practices.

## The Colossus Team Activity

### WHAT TO DO

1. Introduce the exercise using the **PowerPoint slide presentation** or your own notes based on the slides.
2. Divide participants into teams of 3-6 and hand out the **Team Briefs**.
3. Remind teams of the rules. They have 50 minutes to answer the five questions and can communicate the information on their cards *verbally* but *not show* the cards to anyone else.
4. Hand a set of **Cards** to each team. Observe the teams in action to gather 'material' for the Debrief.
5. After 50 minutes stop teams and review what they have achieved.
6. Lead a discussion to draw out the learning points that come out of the activity. Full guidance is provided in the **Trainer's Notes**.

**TO ORDER, please contact**

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### The Colossus Team Activity

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DAS Legal Services  
Dorset Police

### The Colossus Team Activity

#### Trainers' Comments

I use Colossus with every business sector, at every level and in a range of situations: effective communication, team working, problem solving and building confidence. It is always well received and remembered by all participants.

P. Campbell, West End Training.

Just to let you know - Colossus went extremely well. First, we asked teams to list all the things good communicators do - the list was comprehensive and thorough. Then we played Colossus and I watched in amazement as teams totally ignored everything on the list!!! The Debrief was excellent!

A. Shaw, Carshaw Consultants.