



COLLABORATION

Tristan is a transport engineer. He's part of a research group, which looks at ways to reduce carbon usage in the shipping industry. Very often, researchers need to collaborate with each other as part of their work.

PUPILS COLLABORATE TO IDENTIFY A SET OF OBJECTS

Equipment

Paper; pens; pictures of eight engineering-related objects (use this opportunity to challenge stereotypes – pictures of replacement joints or sports equipment are better than a screwdriver and an oily rag!)

Method

In pairs, pupils position their chairs so they are back-to-back. One pupil picks up the first picture and describes it to the other, who draws what they understand the object to be from their colleague's description. Crucially, the describer is not allowed to directly name the object. They can use phrases such as "it's like a..." or they can describe its function, or a situation in which it is used.

The drawer can ask as many questions as they like, but the drawing must be completed in a limited time frame. The pairs continue with the second picture, and they swap over when half the pictures (four of eight) have been drawn. In this activity, pupil pairs need to rely on each other, and to communicate and listen to one another effectively.

Extensions

Why not make this a competition? Pairs play against each other to draw the most accurate pictures in the quickest time.

The research link

Engineering researchers often collaborate with other scientists, for example biologists or chemists, and sometimes non-scientists such as artists or historians. A project may involve collaborating with industry, for example in Tristan's research group, [Low Carbon Shipping](#).

Additional guidance notes

Adjust the rules and pictures to suit your pupils and the time available for the activity.