Desert Dilemma

(Indoor group activity implemented in Comenius 1.3 project Better Behaviour for Better Future by teachers from Lithuania, Germany, Poland and Denmark
www.maironis.kaunas.lm.lt/betterbehavior)

Age group

Teenagers 16–19 years old

Goal(s)

To cooperate and to choose a group leader whose decisions will be respected. While taking part in this activity student learn that not only energetic extroverts have best, valuable opinions and ideas and it is sometimes good listen to shy introverts. The other aim of the activity is to make shy students present their opinions and convince them and the other members of the group that they can be equally good

Material needed

A room which is big enough for a few groups of students. Each group should have a piece of paper and a pencil. Before the exercise begins, organizers must prepare a list of things which were left on a plane after a crash

Introduction

They are introduced with a following story:
You are a group of passengers who have just survived a plane crash. You are in the middle of a desert and you want to leave the place of the crash and look for help. There are some things on the board of the plane such as water, a map, a penknife, some food, a torch etc. (students are given a list of the things) but you are allowed to take only five of them. The ones which are, in your opinion, the most important and necessary. Make a list of the things you would like to take with you.

Exercise description

Adventure game

Reflection

It is very difficult to make a group decision as most members of a group claim his/her decision is best. However, in each group there are some students who do not want or are too shy to express their opinions. Other group members rarely encourage them to do so. It can be easily noticed by observers who a leader is and whose opinions are respected.

Comments
While taking part in this activity, students should realize that:

- Everybody should participate in a discussion
- Nobody can be interrupted while speaking
- It is worth listening to shy pupils' opinions
- A good decision is a decision made after a discussion