**The Human Web**

Untangle obstacles to fostering connection and belonging as you explore the connection between spider webs and team relationships.

| Type | Icebreaker |
| --- | --- |
| Purpose | Interpersonal team building |
| Topics | Teambuilding, communication, fun |
| Audience | Clients |

## **About this activity**

In a world where we are often encouraged to be independent and self-sufficient, it can be easy to forget the importance of our connections to others. However, just as a spider cannot survive without its web, we cannot thrive without our relationships. Our connections give us a sense of belonging and purpose, and they provide us with the support we need to face challenges at work and at home.

In The Human Web, your team will build a web of connection as they get to know each other through a group icebreaker question. This hands-on activity will create a sense of connection and belonging and help the team self-reflect on how they create a welcoming environment for others.

This activity is designed for in-person groups with a general audience of up to 50 participants.

#### Important details

| Best for groups of | 5-50 |
| --- | --- |
| Preparation time | 5 minutes |
| Duration | 20 - 30 minutes |
| Required materials | * A ball of yarn (optional to choose the company’s brand color)
* Scissors
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| Required location | * Indoors or outdoors
* Space large enough to complete a circle
* Smartphone to capture photos of the completed web
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| Noise level | Medium |

## **How it works**

#### Instructions

Before conducting the activity (5 minutes):

The facilitator should review the instructions and ensure the starter piece of the ball of yarn is ready for handoff to start the activity.

Conducting the activity:

Introduction (5 minutes):

The facilitator should introduce the topic of a spider web and talk about the intricate network of silk threads that a spider uses to catch prey. The facilitator should point out that a spider web is a marvel of engineering and a testament to the spider's ability to create something beautiful and functional, and that a spider web is not just a tool for catching prey, but also a symbol of connectedness and interdependence.

The facilitator should stress that humans are also connected in an intricate network of relationships. We rely on each other for support, comfort, and companionship. Just like a spider web, our connections are strong and resilient, but they also require constant care and attention. As more team members are added, it takes more work to keep the shape and form of the web intact.

The facilitator should inform participants that to illustrate, the group will work together to form a human web.

Building of Human Web (5-15 minutes):

The facilitator should form participants into a single circle. The facilitator will hand a ball of yarn to one of the participants and ask them to hold it while they introduce themselves to the group and share an interesting fact about themselves. When they are finished, the participant will hand the ball to the next participant while holding onto one end of the yarn.

That next person then shares a fact about themselves related to the fact shared by the previous participant, and hands off the ball of yarn again while holding their own end of it. This continues around the circle as participants form a web and every participant has the chance to make an introduction and share an interesting fact.

Once the last participant has spoken and is holding their piece of yarn, they should hand the ball back to the first person in the circle. The facilitator should then cut the yarn string from the ball and ask the person to put the beginning and end of the string together, forming a complete web.

The facilitator should take a picture of the finished circle and web to share with the group.

Wrap-Up (10 minutes):

The facilitator should ask participants to share how their individual roles contribute to the greater team and encourage a few responses. The facilitator then should ask participants to share how they help each other and new team members feel connected and part of the group and allow responses as time permits.

#### Rules

Each participant should introduce themselves and share an interesting fact.

Participants should hold onto their end of the yarn and try to keep the web shape intact throughout the activity.

#### Example

None

## **Materials**

#### For facilitator

Ball of yarn

Scissors

Smartphone to capture group photo

#### For attendee

None