



Landmine Trust Walk

THIS ACTIVITY introduces the participants to the experience of living in an area with landmines.

TIME REQUIRED: 30 TO 40 MINUTES
INTENDED FOR GRADES 6-8

MATERIALS NEEDED

- » several copies of the handout titled “Paper Landmine,” found on page 3, enough to scatter throughout the room
- » blindfolds, one for every two participants

1

Activity Steps

SHARE WITH THE PARTICIPANTS the following key points about landmines:

- » Landmines are weapons that explode when disturbed or when physical pressure is placed on them.
- » Landmines are typically planted a few inches below the surface of the ground; the mere pressure of a human foot on the area where the mine is buried causes it to explode.
- » Usually a tripwire is attached from the prong to either another mine or an object like a tree. Disturbing the wire will trigger the mine to explode. Typically cylindrical in shape and roughly the size of a two-pound bag of sugar, landmines can kill or injure a number of people in an instant.
- » Although millions of mines have been removed from former conflict areas, landmines still injure or kill 15,000 to 20,000 people every year.
- » 80 percent of landmine victims are civilians; one-third of these are children. People are



maimed often while cultivating their land, tending their cattle, or fetching water from a well.

- » More than 80 countries are affected to some degree by landmines and undetonated bombs.
- » Landmines cannot discriminate between adult and child, soldier and civilian.
- » During this activity, we will explore what it might be like to live in an area with landmines.

INVITE THE PARTICIPANTS to form pairs. Provide each pair with a blindfold. Ask the pairs to designate one person to serve as the guide, and the other person as the one who will be guided and thus wear the blindfold.

ASK THE “TO BE BLINDFOLDED” participants to go to one end of the room. Have them blindfold themselves, and then ask them to wait patiently.

PROVIDE EACH GUIDE with a paper landmine from the resource found on page 3, and then ask the guides to place the mines somewhere in the middle of the room.

INVITE THE GUIDES (a couple at a time) to guide their blindfolded partners to the other side of the room and back, trying to help them avoid the landmines that have been placed throughout the room. Note that if a blindfolded person steps on or touches a mine, he or she will be disqualified and must return to the starting point and be seated (she or he may remove the blindfold at that time).

CONTINUE THE PROCESS until all the blindfolded participants have had the opportunity to cross the room and return to their starting point.

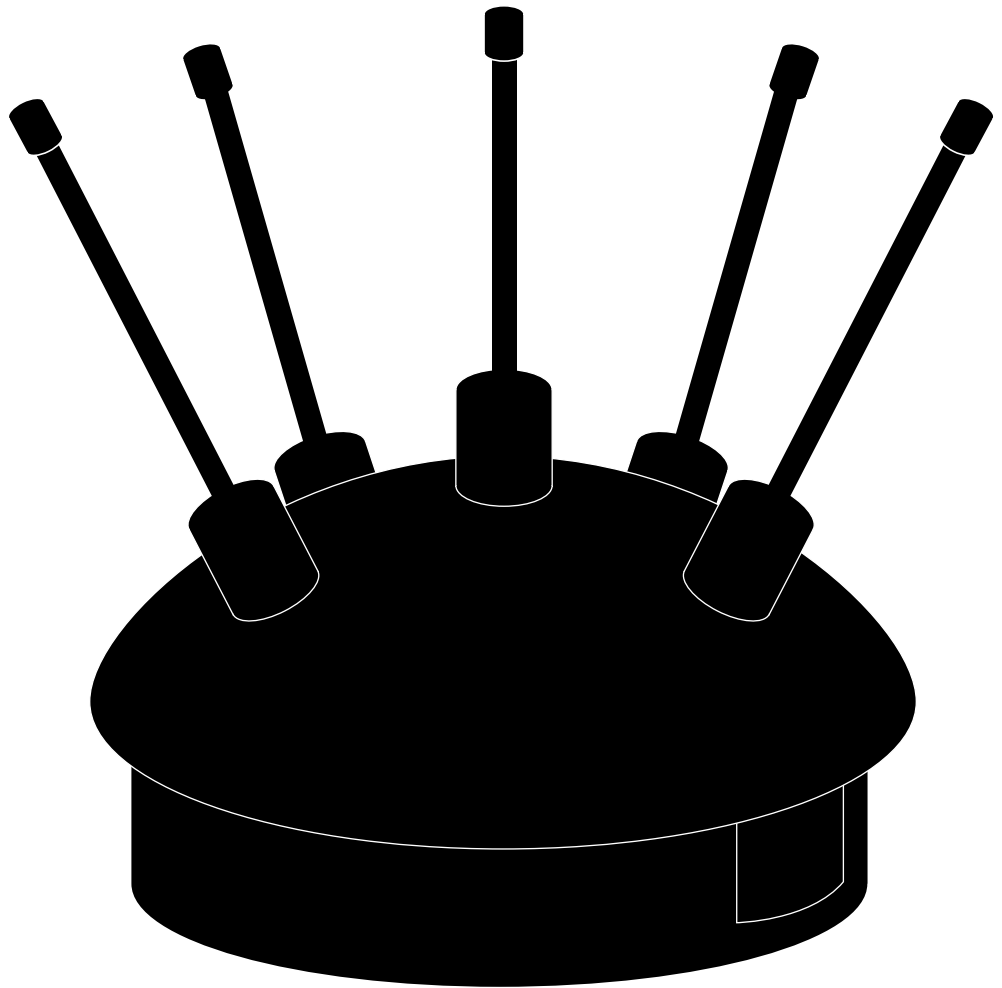
INVITE THE PARTICIPANTS to gather back as a large group. Debrief with a large-group discussion using the following questions:

- » For those of you who were blindfolded, how did you feel during the activity?
- » For those you who served as guides, how did you feel during the activity?
- » For those of you who stepped on a landmine and were disqualified from the game, how did you feel?
- » Imagine you are a deminer—that is, someone who is trained to deactivate mines. What might be your fears? your hopes?
- » Imagine you are a 12-year-old child living in a mined area, and you need to gather bamboo shoots to sell in the market. Your family needs the income to buy food. Describe your hopes and fears.

Variations:

- » If time permits, reverse the roles and play again.
- » Remove some of the mines. Ask all the participants to close their eyes and try to cross the field without stepping on a mine.

Handout | Paper Landmine



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About World Vision

WORLD VISION IS a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organization dedicated to helping children and their families break free from poverty. Our work is motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ. We see a world where each child experiences “fullness of life” as described in John 10:10. And we know this can be achieved only by addressing the problems of poverty and injustice in a holistic way. That’s how World Vision is unique: We bring nearly sixty years of experience in three key areas needed to help children and families thrive: emergency relief, long-term development, and advocacy. And we bring *all* of our skills across many areas of expertise to each community we work in, enabling us to care for children’s physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

WORLD VISION RESOURCES educates Christians about global poverty, inspires them to social justice, and equips them with innovative resources to make a difference in the world. By developing biblically-based materials for educators and ministry leaders on the causes and consequences of global poverty, World Vision Resources supports the organizational mandate to move the church in the United States to more fully embrace its biblical responsibility to serve the poor.



*For more information about
our resources, contact:*

World Vision Resources
www.worldvision.org
wwresources@worldvision.org