

DISCOVERY PLATE™ ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY 4 — GREATER, LESS THAN OR EQUAL



MATERIALS NEEDED

- 1 or more sets of Discovery Plates™
- 1 Set of magnets “Let’s Build Math Facts, Level 1”
- 2 Dry-Erase Markers
- Stopwatch (optional)

PRIOR TO THE ACTIVITY

Divide your Traverse Wall in half vertically, using colored tape or string. Place your Discovery Plates™ at various points across your entire climbing wall. Make sure that there are an equal number of Discovery Plates™ on each half. Place several sets of two numbers (or equations/inequalities) on each Discovery Plate™ with a blank space in between. For example: $6 _ 18$, $4+5 _ 3+6$, $-5 _ -12$. The ages and abilities of participants will guide the choice of numbers. Participants will be writing the correct greater than, less than or equal signs in the space. Review equal and inequality signs with the class, if necessary ($<$, $=$, $>$).

At the start of class: Divide your group into two teams. Each team will have half of the wall on which to climb. Have people from each team line up to one side of their half of the Traverse Wall. Give each team a dry-erase marker.

THE ACTIVITY

While climbing, participants are asked to place the correct sign between the numbers on the Discovery Plates™. They may complete as many as they can as they traverse their section of the Traverse Wall. Once they have completed their side of the wall, they are to step down and get back in line. The object is to get the most number of correct symbols. The instructor can decide how much of a competition to make this between the teams and whether or not the activity should be timed.

After climbers have placed all their answers or time has run out, teams should count the number of correct answers that they completed and are awarded one point for each correct answer. If errors are found, they may be corrected. Next, opposing teams will “correct” each other’s work. If any errors are found, one point is subtracted from that team’s score. For a less competitive approach to this activity, participants can work towards a goal of cumulative correct answers that they determine prior to climbing.