

ZIN OBELISK BRIEF FOR FACILITATORS

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Key Themes | Teamwork, Communication, Time Management, Problem Solving |
| Participants | Teams of 4 to 7 |
| Timings | Suggest 30-45 minutes for activity + debrief time |
| Materials Required | One set of cards per team (31 cards per set) |

Overview

This activity is aimed at showing how successful teams need complementary skills. It also highlights the need to listen effectively to others and the importance of sharing information.

Running the Activity

- Photocopy the information cards (one set of 33 cards per team). These are in PowerPoint so suggest printing 4 to a page and cutting these.
- Divide the participants into teams of 4-7 and give them the cards **face down** to share equally amongst themselves. They cannot look at the cards at this point.
- Handout a team brief to each team.
- From the information they have, the teams have to solve the problem of identifying the day the Zin obelisk was completed
- They may verbally share the information on the cards but cannot show their cards to the other team members.
- They have 5 minutes before the activity starts to plan how they may approach the task (they must not look at their cards at this point).

Suggested Review Questions

- What went well/what would you do differently?
- How was the problem solving approach planned?
- Did the team agree on how they would process the information? Did they stick to their plan?
- How well did they organise data?
- What made the task challenging? (Jargon!)
- How well did they listen to each other? How often did an information card have to be repeated?
- What learning can they take from this activity back to the workplace?



ZIN OBELISK ANSWER/RATIONALE FOR FACILITATORS

The answer is Neptimus

Rationale

1. The dimensions of the zin indicate that it contains 50,000 cubic feet of stone blocks.
2. The blocks are 1 cubic foot each, therefore 50,000 blocks are required.
3. Each worker works 7 schilibs in a day (2 schilibs are devoted to rest)
4. Each worker lays 150 blocks per schilib, therefore each worker lays 1050 locks per day
5. There are 8 workers per day, therefore 8,400 blocks are laid per working day
6. The 50,000th block is therefore laid on the sixth working day.
7. Since work does not take place on Daydoldrum, the sixth working day is Neptimus.



ZIN OBELISK TEAM BRIEF

Your Task

- In the ancient city of Atlantis, a solid, rectangular obelisk called a zin was built in honour of the goddess Tina.
- The structure took less than two weeks to complete.
- Your task as a team is to determine on which day of the week the obelisk was completed.
- You will be given cards containing information related to the task.
- You may share this information verbally with your team, but you may not show your cards to anyone else.