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Fill in the Blank

If I was stranded on deserted island, I would most like to have a(n)...

Burns & MacGyver Challenge:

Divide into groups of 3-4 people. Have each member of your team write down one item to fill in the blank. Then choose only one item from the list to represent your team's most desirable item.

(1 minute)



Angus MacGyver:

Resourceful and possessed with an encyclopedic knowledge of the physical sciences, he solves complex problems by making things out of ordinary objects, along with his ever-present Swiss Army knife.



MacGyver, secret agent for the Phoenix Foundation, is on his way to a well-deserved vacation, hitching a ride with Random Item Delivery Services. Suddenly, the plane fails and MacGyver parachutes safely to a deserted island. Random items wash up on shore, including a mystery box, containing the one item MacGyver needs most (the one item your team chose previously).

Challenge 1: The pilot sent a distress signal just before MacGyver abandoned the plane. MacGyver assumes help is on the way. Help MacGyver survive for one week. He can use any of the random items pictured... and don't forget MacGyver always carries a Swiss army knife. You have two minutes to devise a survival plan for MacGyver.

2-3 teams report out and applause-o-meter for MacGyver Award (most likely to survive).



MacGruber:

Opposite of MacGyver. Problem-solving attempts usually thwarted by bomb explosion, but he is still a very creative thinker.



Challenge 2: No one has shown up to rescue MacGyver, so he's decided to save himself. You have two minutes to devise an escape plan for MacGyver using the items on screen and the single item in your mystery box.

2-3 teams report out and applause-o-meter for MacGruber Award (most creative escape plan).

This exercise is easily adaptable for the classroom. You can use everyday items in your room, change the story to any worst-case scenario and encourage students to think both practically and without limits. While the Burns & MacGyver Challenge is outside the box, the creative problem-solving skills are the basis for what our STEM professionals do everyday at Burns & McDonnell – make our clients successful.

Breakout Sessions



Breakout Sessions

Elementary educators

- STEM activity demos
- Stay seated

Secondary educators

- Intern panel
- Exit up stairs to atrium