

Welcome to the Region Board

Totem Teams

Historically, a totem pole was carved for several reasons; for example, to honor a deceased family member or to show the display the rights and titles a person had acquired over his or her lifetime. Totems can also be carved to tell the story of the people who commission the pole.

You and your partners are about to design a totem pole that will reveal the story of your strengths and challenges as a team. Form a team of 5 or 6 people; then choose one person to be the reporter who will summarize the results. Each of you will receive a blank piece of paper and a list of animal symbols. On the paper you will depict 1 totem figure that represents some quality of yours that would be an asset to the group. You may choose one of the animal symbols listed or make up your own. You'll have 2-3 minutes to complete your drawing. Once done, you and your partners will stack and tape the totem figures on top of one other, and each person will explain the trait he/she has added to the totem. Then take 3 minutes as a group to assess the strengths of a team equipped with these traits, as well as any gaps or weaknesses that team could have. Finally, team reporters will give a brief summary of their results to the large group.

SYMBOLS

Bee - Organized, industrious, works well with the group

Crane - Independent, intelligent, self-sufficient

Dog - Loyal, protective, quick to learn

Dragonfly - Flighty, imaginative, free-willed

Elephant - Strong, wise, dignified

Fox – Agile, quick-witted, diplomatic

Goose - Demanding of self and others, steady, vigilant

Lion - Family-oriented, courageous, protective

Moose – Strong, decisive, unwavering

Mouse - Observant, orderly, detail-oriented

Otter - Playful, friendly, generous

Owl - Knowledgeable, wise, discreet

Swan - Graceful, balanced, self-confident

Tiger - Powerful, energetic, assertive

Turtle - Nurturing, stable, protective