
Moving Targets

An enormous amount of skill and teamwork is required to land a jet safely on the deck of an aircraft carrier. In addition to the pilot's ability to fly the plane on a precise course, a successful mission also depends on a significant amount of teamwork. To get a sense of some of the difficulties of landing on a moving deck, try some of these activities.

Mission Number 1

Tossers: (This is the low-risk mission.) With the ball in your hand, stand over the wastebasket. Now try to drop the ball into your target.

Mission Number 2

Tossers: Take the ball to the other side of the classroom. Walking quickly toward the wastebasket, try to drop the ball into it without slowing down as you pass.

Mission Number 3

Tossers: Take the ball across the classroom again, and wait for your Target Holder to pick up the wastebasket.

Target Holders: Pick up the wastebasket and slowly walk the length of the classroom, keeping a steady pace. Try not to alter your speed or the way you are holding the target.

Tosser: As the Target Holder is crossing the room, try to toss the ball into the basket.

Mission Number 4

Tossers and Target Holders: Try Mission Number 3 again, but this time Target Holders should try to help Tossers hit their targets. After you've tried this activity a few times, change places – Tossers become Target Holders and vice versa. Change directions and speeds, and try to think of other ways to make the activity more challenging.



Questions:

1 How accurate a tosser were you?

2 Which mission was the most challenging?

3 What were some of the reasons you missed your target?

4 What did Target Holders do to help Tossers hit the mark?