

The Longest Line

Grades K–2 • 10–15 min • 16+ students

WHAT YOU NEED

- Whatever's already in the room — shoes, pencils, books, jackets, water bottles

SETUP

Clear a stretch of open floor at least 15 feet long. Explain the one rule up front: once the timer starts, nobody may speak.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. Split the class into two or three teams and give each team a corner of the room.
2. On "go," each team has 5 minutes to build the longest possible line using only objects they're allowed to remove from their own bodies or desks (shoes, pencils, notebooks, jacket sleeves laid end to end) — no speaking allowed the whole time.
3. When time is up, everyone stops and a helper measures each team's line with a tape measure or by counting floor tiles.
4. Gather the class and ask: how did you communicate without talking? Who ended up leading, and how did that happen without anyone saying "I'll lead"?

VARIATIONS

- Add a second silent round after the debrief — lines almost always get longer and better-organized the second time.
- For a smaller class, run it as one team against the clock instead of team-versus-team.