

WE COME IN PEACE

The cross-cultural
communication game



MAIN THEMES : Communication and Negotiation

Alternative Themes : Education & Team Building

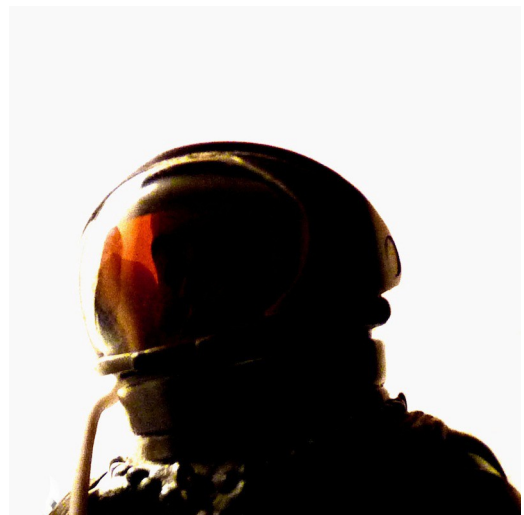
Outline

The game concentrates on how difficult communication can be between groups with very different underlying cultural assumptions. After initially identifying the areas of difference, the players start to identify ways of overcoming misunderstandings through active listening and conscious communications. The setting is deliberately an unfamiliar one, set on a distant planet to ensure the absence of hindsight and to fully bring out the unknowns in communication.

Gameplay

The players are in teams representing two different cultures encountering each other for the first time. There are three different types of team, Politicians, Planners and Negotiators. Interaction between teams on the same side can be as important as interactions between negotiators between sides.

During the inter-culture communications there are other challenges and barriers to effective communication that might need to be overcome – each side may have an incomplete picture of the



context in which the negotiation is taking place.

At the end of the game there is a debrief of the process and how negotiation and communications worked both within and between the teams. Teams have the opportunity to reflect on how their communication style was affected by the misunderstandings and mis-communications and how this might inform their practice and planning in future.

Ideal Audiences

- Groups exploring the challenges of cross-cultural communication.
- Organisations practising communication and negotiation skills

Example game structures

We Come In Peace : For 12 players	
Team	Number in team
Sirius Politician Team	2
Sirius Negotiation Team	2
Sirius Planner Team	2
Earth Politician Team	2
Earth Negotiation Team	2
Earth Planner Team	2
Total	12

We Come IN Peace: for 30 players	
Team	Number in team
Sirius Politician Team	3
Sirius Negotiation Team	3
Sirius Planner Team	3
Earth Politician Team	3
Earth Negotiation Team	3
Earth Planner Team	3
Aborigine Tribal Elders Teams	6
Aborigine Negotiation Teams	6
Total	30