

Lingo Leap the Game

Making the Game Work

The aim of the Lingo Leap game is to give the participants a taste of cross-cultural mission. The aim of the Dim Dim people is to learn the language and culture of the Weawi people who have only recently been discovered.

The game consists of 3 parts:

1. Short 3 min intro to the game, and split participants into two separate equal sized groups (the Dim Dim and the Weawi)
2. Briefing for the Dim Dim and Weawi in their separate groups (preferably in different rooms). 5-10 min.
3. Game: 50 min
4. Debriefing and talk: 20-30 min.

Before the game you need to prepare the following resources:

For each person on the Weawi:

1. War clubs for each person (half a pool noodle)
2. Weawi people information sheet (printed on yellow paper)

For each person on the Dim Dim:

1. Dim Dim task sheet (printed on any other colour paper)

Leaders should be allocated to each of the two teams and given copies of the Briefing sheet for that group.

Debriefing:

At the end of the game debrief the group by asking what the Dim Dim participants learned about the Weawi (what words did they get? Why did people get hit? What did you find hard? etc).

Follow this with a talk about world mission and why missionaries are ready to deal with the frustrations and hardships of crossing cultures to take the gospel to other cultural groups.

Lingo Leap the Game

Briefing for Dim Dim

You are a person who is trying to learn the Weawi language. The Weawi call these people Dim Dim because they don't speak Weawi.

The Weawi don't speak any English whatsoever, so you have to communicate to them by pointing, or by trying to understand what they say and do. You also have to avoid upsetting them, because they have a culture that is based on survival they are very efficient killers and fighters.

As they have only recently been discovered, not much is known about their language or their customs. They are thought to be very warlike, and other tribes in their area are very scared of them. Don't make them angry, and if they become aggressive, then try saying hello again. If you have seriously offended them, or feel like you are making no progress, try to withdraw politely and make contact with another tribal grouping of the Weawi.

The only phrase of their language that we have learnt from a trader is "Apa ini" and it means "How do you say..." So, to learn the word for right arm, you would say "Apa ini..." and hold up your right arm. The same goes for your left arm and other body parts. Try to fill in as much of the sheet as possible.

Both the Dim Dim and the Weawi have to speak slowly so that they can be understood.

The Weawi are looking forward to being discovered by Dim Dims because they have seen some of the benefits that have come to neighbouring tribes. They will co-operate, but their society has had to develop some particular behaviours to ensure their survival. To an outsider, these may seem unpredictable or bizarre, but to the Weawi, they are a normal part of daily life.

Lingo Leap the Game

Briefing for Weawi

You are a tribesman of the people group called the Weawi – pronounced “where are we.” You are about to be contacted by a group of people who are trying to learn the Weawi language. The Weawi call these people Dim Dim because they don’t speak Weawi.

The Weawi don’t speak any English whatsoever, so whenever anyone speaks in English, try not to react or understand. The Dim Dim will try to communicate by pointing, or by trying to understand what you say and do. You really want to make contact with the Dim Dim, so try to help them to understand Weawi.

Your culture is cannibalistic, and you live in an area where all the other tribes surrounding you are also cannibals. Anyone who intends to eat you will usually show you their intention first by looking at you and baring their teeth. A good way to discourage people from eating you is to prove that you are stronger than they are, usually by hitting them with your war club. (a ½ pool noodle makes an ideal war club.) Usually one hit is sufficient, but if they continue to display their intention to eat you, then you must hit them again.

Also, in order to manage hygiene, the Weawi consider anything on the left side of the body to be unclean. (They don’t have any toilet paper, so they use their left hand instead.) This is so culturally ingrained that Weawi never refer to the left hand side of the body. It is rude to do so. If anyone does it is highly embarrassing. If someone does point to the left side of your body you must act embarrassed. To cover your embarrassment laugh out loud and cover your mouth with your right hand (so people can’t see your teeth, you don’t want them to think that you’re about to eat them.) To an outsider, these behaviours may seem unpredictable or bizarre, but to the Weawi they are a normal part of daily life.

The only phrase of the Weawi language that the Dim Dim have learnt from a trader is “Apa ini” and it means “How do you say...” So they will try to learn the words for right arm, etc... There is no word for left arm of course. When you count, you only use the fingers of the right hand, starting with the little finger. This is important because you may need to count and still hold a club.

You only have words for three colours, White: the colour of milk and teeth, Red: the colour of blood and meat, and Yellow: the colour of butter and banana skins. Everything that is not red and Yellow gets called White.

Both the Dim Dim and the Weawi have to speak slowly so that they can be understood.

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Dim Dim Task Sheet

Please fill in the Sheet with the Weawi language for the following terms:

Please Note: At no time during the game are you to English when speaking to Weawi people. The only thing we know about their language is that “Apa ini...” means “How do you say...?”

Greeting			RESPONSE	
			Yes	
Farewell			No	
NOUNS			VERBS	
Tongue			Sit	
Right eye			Stand	
Left eye			Jump	
Right arm			Hit	
Left arm			Lie down	
Finger			It is	
Chair				
Floor/Ground			ADJECTIVES	
Wall			White	
Cloth			Blue	
Timber/Tree			Red	
Paper			Green	
Pen/Pencil			Yellow	
			Orange	
NUMBERS			Wooden	
One				
Two			PRONOUNS	
Three			I, me	
Four			You (sing)	
Five			You (plural)	

Sentences:

I hit the floor: _____

I lie down on two chairs: _____

I hit the white wall: _____

You (pl) hit the wooden wall: _____

Cultural Clues: Things we have learnt about how the Weawi communicate or think.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Lingo Leap

The Weawi People

Dim Dim: The only Weawi phrase the DimDim know is Apa ini, which means: How do you say

Cultural Clues: (Behaviour that is done without explanation, the Weawi know what it means.)

1. Anyone looking at you and smiling at the same time must be clubbed. (It's rude!)
2. You laugh out loud and cover your mouth with your right hand to cover your embarrassment whenever anyone points to the left hand side of your body.
3. Whenever a Dim Dim does something silly, you look at them and don't smile, but say tiki suwiti (pronounced "sweetie") which means "You look funny doing that."

Greeting	Sniff the back of their right hand and say "Am a kau"
response	"Am a kau tu" return sniff
Farewell	Grab their right hand with both hands and say "Sok it tu um" (sock it to 'em)

RESPONSE	frown a little to show approval
Yes	Na + shake head side to side
No	Wa + nod head up and down
	Note: these are opposite to DimDim

NOUNS	
Tongue	<u>tiki</u> lika (licker)
Right eye	<u>tiki</u> asiupos (I see you boss)
Left eye	(laugh, no word)
Right arm	<u>tiki</u> am (arm)
Left arm	(laugh, no word)
Finger	(see counting chart)
Chair	itu pakit rok (park it rock)
Floor/Ground	itu pakit rok
Wall/log	itu wut (wood)
Cloth	itu letas (lettuce)
Timber/Tree	itu wut (wood)
Paper	itu letas (lettuce)
Pen/Pencil	itu lisit pokar (lizard poker)

VERBS	How do you say... "Apa ini"
Sit	pakit <u>tiki</u> (park it)
Stand	popap <u>tiki</u> (pop up)
Jump	liplip <u>tiki</u> (leap leap)
Hit	kolopa <u>tiki</u> (clobber)
Lie down	rika motis <u>tiki</u> (rigour mortis)
It is	itu

ADJECTIVES	
White	itu milik (milk)
Blue	itu milik (milk)
Red	itu sos (sauce)
Green	itu milik (milk)
Yellow	itu patar (butter)
Orange	itu milik (milk)
Wooden	itu wut

NUMBERS	Right hand only
One (little finger)	<u>tiki</u> pika (picker)
Two (ring finger)	<u>tiki</u> pika-pika
Three (middle finger)	<u>tiki</u> pika-pika-pika
Four (index finger)	<u>tiki</u> palenti (plenty)
Five (thumb)	<u>tiki</u> palenti (plenty)

PRONOUNS	
I, me	<u>taka</u>
You (sing)	<u>tiki</u>
You (plural)	<u>tiki-tiki</u>

I hit the floor: kalopa taka pakit rok

I lie down on two chairs: rika motis taka pakit rok pika-pika

I hit the white wall: kalopa taka wut milit

You (pl) hit the wooden wall: kalopa tiki-tiki wut (or wutwut)

Weawi sounds: **a** as in ta, **e** as in egg, **i** as in ski, **o** as in or, **u** as in put,

t aspirate (breathe out, "tuh"), t, p, s, r, t, l, w, m, n, k