



Every picture tells a story

What does this picture tell you?

Invent 5 captions for this picture.



Tournament of Minds

Challenging the World

**WHAT
IS
TOM?**

Welcome



What is TOM?

- A problem-solving programme for teams of multi-age students from Primary, Intermediate and Secondary years
- Teams are required to solve two demanding, open-ended Challenges
- Both Challenges are presented on Tournament Day
- Each team has a Facilitator appointed to prepare and train teams for the Tournament

TOM is...

an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant, and public way.

History of TOM

- Tournament began in Melbourne in 1987 with 300 students
- Over 16,000 students participate nationally each year with several hundred students involved internationally
- TOM now has an Australasian Pacific Final with New Zealand, Hong Kong and Thailand, to name a few, being keen and prominent competitors

TOM Objectives

- To provide the challenge of real, open-ended Challenges
- To develop creative problem solving approaches and techniques
- To foster cooperative learning and teamwork
- To promote knowledge & appreciation of self & others
- To encourage experimentation and risk taking
- To expand and reward creative and divergent thinking
- To stimulate a spirit of inquiry and a love of learning
- To develop enterprise
- To celebrate excellence



T – Together

E – Everyone

A – Achieves

M – More

The TEAM Approach

Teams

Primary

- Must have students from at least two year levels and no more than four students from any one year level (generally Years 5-6)

Intermediate

- Must have students from at least two year levels and no more than four students from any one year level (generally Years 7-8 but can include Years 5 & 6)

Secondary

- Must have students from at least two year levels up to and including Year 10 and no more than four students from any one year level (generally Years 9 to 10 but can include Years 7 & 8)



The Challenges

Long Term Challenge

- A team chooses to solve one Challenge over a six-week period in one of the four disciplines:
 - **Language Literature**
 - **Science Technology**
 - **Engineering Mathematics**
 - **Social Sciences**
- The team's solution is presented to an audience and judged on Tournament Day

The Challenges

Spontaneous Challenge[®]

- All teams undertake the same 'unseen' Spontaneous Challenge on Tournament Day.
- Only the judges are permitted to view this presentation - no spectators, facilitators, other team members, parents or media are allowed.
- No one can reveal the nature of the Challenge prior to the end of the Tournament.



Any which way

There is a saying: Every picture tells a story”

What does this picture tell you?

You must invent 5 captions for this picture.

You will have five minutes to discuss your ideas and write down 10 best captions on the sheet provided.

You will be judged on the creativity and diverse nature of your captions and your ability to work together.

Another one...

We sometimes come across things in strange and unusual places. Or at least, that is how it seems to us. But for others, it might seem perfectly natural. Look closely at the accompanying picture.

What are the penguins talking about? How do they explain what they are doing in this location?

You will have four minutes for your discussion.

You will have two minutes to give your responses

You will be judged on your group's thinking processes, the creativity of your choices and explanations and your ability to work as a team. No points are awarded for presentation.



Tournament Day

- Team presentation times are advised about two weeks prior to the Regional Tournament
- MUST wear black clothing
- Teams to register with all 7 members on the day presenting the required forms
- Forms to be submitted to the judges immediately prior to the Long Term Challenge presentation

The Facilitator

- Promote TOM to students & parents
- Select and build a team
- Secure commitment from students and parents
- Establish a positive environment
- Develop a team action plan and timetable
- Teach relevant skills
- Practice Spontaneous Challenges
- Encourage, encourage, encourage
- Celebrate the team's successes



Skills to Develop

- Artistic
- Communication
- Cooperative
- Dramatic
- Organisational
- Personal
- Practical
- Problem Solving / Thinking
- Research
- Script writing
- Performance considerations



Team Selection

- Open invitation
- Student nomination
- Teacher nomination
- Teacher selection
- Parent nomination
- Use test results
- Winners of intra-school Tournament
- Combinations of the above



Team selection

Teams should have a balance of learning and personality types:

- Organiser
- Creator
- Problem Solver
- Thinker
- Doer



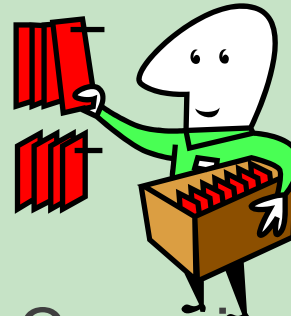
Team Roles



Encourager



Researcher



Organiser



Time keeper



Challenge checker



Note taker



Rule checker

Team Forms

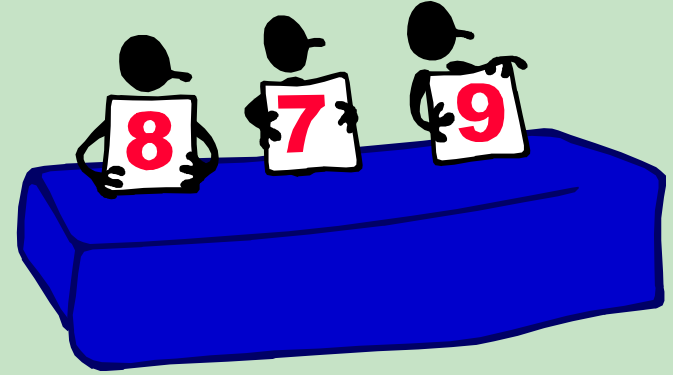
- Cost Form (\$75 budget)
- Outside Assistance Form
- Presentation Skills Form
- Script (1 copy)
- Plans of construction (if specified in the Challenge)

All forms are the team's responsibility.

TOM Rules

- All members of the team must be involved in the Long Term Challenge with a minimum of 4 members in the 3 x3 m presentation area at all times
- Predominantly black clothing
- Presentation from start to clean up is a maximum of 10 minutes with a warning at 9 minutes
- Props and costumes made by team members from list of allowable materials

Judges



- All schools are asked to supply one judge – such as an interested teacher, parent or principal
- Judges are trained and briefed with training sessions in each TOM region
- A minimum of two judges assess each presentation, but usually three
- The Judge’s decision is final
- All team scores are confidential

Feedback

Feedback is an important aspect of TOM and is provided to every team in several ways:

- Judges will gather the team after their presentation, may ask some questions and will provide verbal feedback
- The judges indicate how the team rates against each of the scoring criterion and add a few supporting comments in the feedback letter mailed to schools the week after Tournament
- Team facilitators and teams should celebrate their successes and review their efforts

The Next Step ...

- Complete your School Registration
- Promote TOM to students and teachers
- Select your teams and facilitators
- The Instruction Manual will be sent to you. Your students and yourself should be very familiar with all the regulations.
- Begin skills training-thinking, teamwork, drama skills
- Practise, Practise, Practise

And the final words from a Year 10 student,
“Tournament of Minds is very hard to explain. However, I would like to suggest that this is because it continually refuses to be bound by rules and restrictions. It deliberately takes a bulldozer to boundaries, and encourages kids to think outside the box, or, for the Doctor Who fans among us, inside the box, because
IT’S BIGGER ON THE INSIDE!”

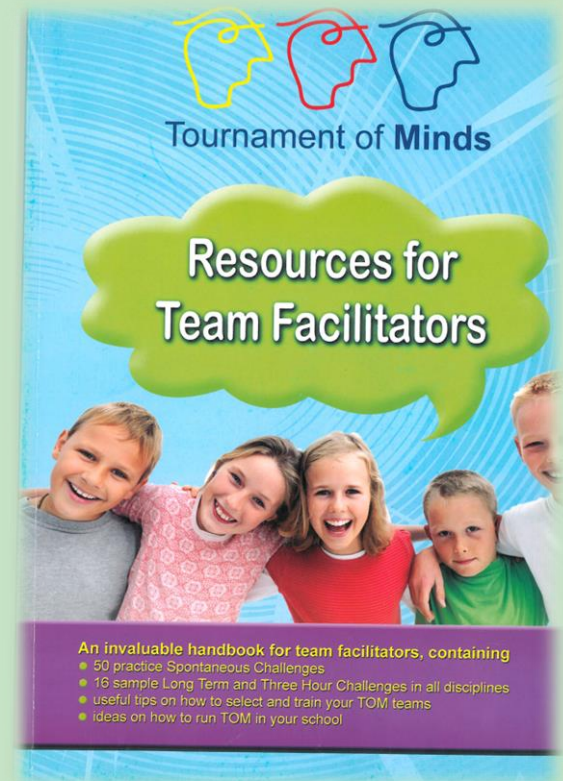
Resources

- **TOM NZ**
 - Email: nz-director@tom.edu.au
- **TOM Website**
 - www.tom.edu.au
- **TOM Workshops**
 - Facilitator workshops
 - Team Development Workshops
 - Student Workshops
 - Judges Training

Facilitator Resource Manual

Available to participating schools:

- Resources for Team Facilitators
- Long term challenge examples and lots of past Spontaneous challenges



Any Questions?

