

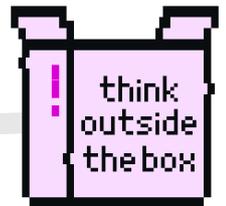
Getting Started with FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League

The FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League Challenge Division is for students aged 9- 16 years, for younger students there is the [Explore Division](#).



Each year new materials are produced for the new Challenge theme and the 2025-26 Challenge theme is **UNEARTHED**. The focus is on Archaeology, and the challenge mat encourages teams to complete missions exploring traces of the past: uncovering hidden treasures, mysterious artifacts, and forgotten stories.

You will receive the season's challenge mat and LEGO[®] models after you register for a tournament. We recommend opening the box and getting started with it as soon as possible after you receive it!



Materials you will need to reference:

The Engineering Notebook will help guide teams through the Challenge and can be used to help document the robot design and project development ([download here](#)).

The Robot Game Rulebook outlines what teams need to know about the Challenge ([download here](#)).



The Team Meeting Guide ([download here](#)) is a suggested sequence of 12 x 2.5 hour sessions that team coaches (i.e. you) may choose to follow or there's a [suggested quick route here](#) (12 x 1 hour sessions).

NOTE You do not need to follow either of these suggested sequences. Fewer or shorter sessions are not a barrier to participation, please structure your sessions as you see fit within your timetable.

Helpful online resources

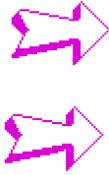


[Library of Coach and Team Resources](#): Mission model build instructions, presentations for sessions, judging rubrics and scoresheets etc.



Check [here](#) for ongoing updates to the Challenge guidance.

More online resources



[YouTube channel](#) featuring hints, tips and insights from the global *FIRST*® *LEGO*® League community.

[Archaeology Webinar from Wessex Archaeology](#).
Password: UNEARTHED

Building a *FIRST*® *LEGO*® League team



The max team size is 10 students between 9-16 years. So who will be in your team?

WHO?

Will the opportunity be open to all (e.g. via an application process), selective (e.g. focusing on certain demographics such as gender, pupil premium, etc) or a combination?

TEAMWORK

Engaging students with a broad spectrum of interests and skillsets, along with mixing up year groups produces strong teams that can develop year on year.

WHEN?

Decide early on when, where and how long you'll meet for each week, and ensure this doesn't inadvertently exclude students you particularly want to engage.

What equipment do you need?

The mission mat: needs an area approximately 2.5m x 1.5m to lay out flat, ideally on a tabletop but it can be on the floor. **TOP TIP:** if the mat needs to be put away between sessions - roll it, don't fold it.

The mission models: these can be built by your team, however they need to be assembled carefully. You can keep them made up for the season. **TOP TIP:** They are delicate, so careful storage is needed. A large plastic storage box and packing material will help.

The robot: should be stored safely and securely, and will need charging between sessions. **TOP TIP:** there's no need to start a robot design from scratch! Base it on a previous year's robot or something you've seen online (e.g. [here](#)), and develop it each week.

The computers: you will need one device (e.g. a laptop with bluetooth) for each robot, and possibly another device for researching and developing the project. **TOP TIP:** if possible, use the same devices for each role every session.