



## Learning Objectives

**Countdown<sup>®</sup>: A Strategy Game for Project Teams** is designed to allow learners to experience, within a simulated project environment, the key tools, concepts, processes and behaviors of successful project teams. A Project Success Model, introduced at the conclusion of the simulation, helps to visually pull all these elements together as it helps learners understand how to assess a project's ultimate success.

Specifically, after experiencing **Countdown**, learners will be able to

- Define the five key processes of project management (as described in the PMBOK): Initiating, Planning, Executing, Controlling and Closing.
- Explain the triple constraints of time, cost and requirements that form the “Trade-off Triangle” of project management decision making.
- Explain how a project kickoff meeting and project scope statement are used to learn what project sponsors expect from the team.
- Complete a risk evaluation and contingency plan and explain the importance of risk management.
- Explain the purpose and importance of the following project management tools:
  - Work Breakdown Structure
  - Gantt Chart
  - Responsibility Matrix
  - Risk Profile
  - Resource Allocation Grid
  - Critical Path Diagram
  - Project Control Reports to Sponsors
- Complete a resource constraints evaluation considering available time, people, workspace and money, and explain the importance of effective resource allocation.
- Explain effective team responses to project changes, including scope creep and changing expectations.
- Describe a project's critical path, which determines the earliest completion of the project.
- Describe effective team behaviors for managing and controlling a project — communicating effectively, gaining and managing commitment, and resolving conflict — and explain the use of these behaviors within the team, within the organization and outside the organization.
- Explain what an effective project manager does to guide a project team's success.