

Teacher's Guide to the The Categories Activity



OVERVIEW: The teacher will guide students in a series of questions that will place the student in a variety of categories. Students will group in those categories, getting to know a bit about each other (and you!) along the way.

MATERIALS NEEDED: No materials needed. Only an open space and the suggestions provided.

STEP ONE: Teacher Introduction

To start, have the students form a circle on the stage. Instruct the students that you will be suggesting to them various categories for students to place themselves into or an order in which they should organize themselves into. Sometimes using teamwork, they should make sure they are in the correct spot on stage.

STEP TWO: Place of birth line-up

To start, students are going to create a circle on the stage. Tell students that the student directly on your left will be the student who was born closest to the city you are in right now. The student who ends up directly to your right is the one who was born in the furthest city away from where you are right now. Students are allowed to talk and communicate through this activity. If there are multiple students from one city, just simply let them stand side by side. Once they are all lined up, have the students list off the cities and states in which they were born. After all is said and done, place yourself in the circle and let the students know where you were born!

STEP THREE: Birthday line-up

Now students are going to do the same thing lining themselves up by birthdate. The student directly to your left will be January 1st. The student directly to your right will be December 31st. However, this time, they cannot talk. They CAN communicate with sign language though. Just like before, have the students list their birthdays once they are done to see if they are right and place yourself in the circle as well.

STEP FOUR: Seasons

Students now will place themselves in for different corners of the room or stage according to their favorite season: Autumn, Winter, Spring, or Summer. Once the students get there, have them discuss why they picked that season and then share a few reasons with the entire class. Be sure to tell them your favorite as well!

STEP FIVE: Siblings

Students will again place themselves in various corners of the room according to how many biological siblings they have (half-siblings count). Make sure to have one of the areas be an only child! Once there, have students discuss the question, “Do you like having this many siblings? Do you wish you had more or less?” Have them share if the majority of their group liked having that many siblings.

STEP SIX: Travel

Have students think about the place they would most like to visit in the world. Students will then place themselves in different areas according to the continent that country (or state or city) is in (Don’t forget to include North America!). Once they have placed themselves there, have the students discuss what country on that continent they would most like to visit. Have students share some with the rest of the class.