

SEL Activity

Learn about a Classmate



Objectives

- Students learn about a classmate.
- Build community in the classroom.

Essential Questions

- How can we learn about others?
- Why is it important to learn about others in our communities?

Vocabulary

Commonality: noun; the state of sharing interests, experiences, or other characteristics with someone or something.

Community: noun; a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; a feeling of fellowship with others due to sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

MATERIALS

Worksheet: Learn about a Classmate ([PDF](#) | [Google](#))

SEL CORE COMPETANCIES

Relationship skills
Social awareness
Goal-setting

Before you Begin

- Plan partners, pairing students who don't know each other well.
- Print or digitally share the Worksheet: Learn about a Classmate ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)) (1/student).

Program Connections

This activity focuses on community—a theme that runs through our core programs. To learn more, visit our [PROGRAMS](#) page.

THINK • GIVE

Student Interviews

Assign students into pairs. Hand out the [Worksheet: Learn about a Classmate \(PDF | Google\)](#) (1/student). Students review the list of questions, choose three to ask their partner, and then interview each other and record their answers.

Using the answers, students then introduce their partner to the class or a small group.

CONNECT + CLOSE

Discuss as a class:

- Did you learn anything that surprised you about one of your classmates?
- Why is it important to learn about people we might not know very well in our classroom or other communities?
- Did you learn about a commonality you had with a classmate?

ACTION

Explain: Find an opportunity to have a conversation with someone you don't know well. Ask them questions from the worksheet or make your own to learn more about them. Try to find some things you have in common!

REFLECTION

Lead a discussion or allow students to journal.

Use the following question as a guide:

- Who did you learn about?
- What did you learn?
- How did it feel to try to learn about someone you didn't know very well?