

Lesson Plan: Diversity

CSV 
MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
DAY



In a country as diverse as Britain it is vital for young people to be educated on differences so that we might come to respect and appreciate each other, and to make sure that our diversity becomes something that brings us together and not keeps us apart. I'm really happy to back CSV Make a Difference Day and hope the Diversity lesson plan can educate and bring people together.

Ade Adepitan, wheelchair basketball Paralympian and TV presenter

Aim

- To understand that our identity is made up of many things and that these things can be different for different people.

Objectives

- To discuss the types of differences between people
 - To communicate without using words
 - To create an identity card using symbols.
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CSV Make a Difference Day 2011

Don't forget to register your chosen project with the CSV team, and we can send you a free Action Pack with T shirts, certificates, balloons, stickers and posters!

Just go to www.csv.org.uk/difference or call 0800 284533.

Suggested Teaching Method

1. What makes each of us different?

Explain that we are all very different and ask the class what differences these are. These might be visible differences (e.g. hair colour) or non visible (e.g. number of siblings, religion). Create two lists, one listing visible and one listing non visible differences.

2. What is the significance of these differences?

Split the class into pairs (preferably with students they don't know too well) and ask them to list as many differences and similarities between themselves. Ask which similarities or differences were the easiest to spot and why. Did they have any similarities that surprised them? Did they have any differences that surprised them? Why do they think they did this activity? What does it tell us about assumptions that are sometimes made about the way someone looks?

3. What is our identity?

Ask what we mean by the term 'identity'. What makes up our identity? Students should think of as many things as they can.

4. What has the greatest influence over our identity?

In pairs, ask the students to read through the 'identity' sorting cards and place them in order of importance. They need to think about which they think have the greatest influence over our identity, and which the least, and why. Blank cards can be filled in with any ideas they have of their own. Once this is done, feed back answers to the rest of the group and discuss any differences.

5. Using symbols to communicate about our identity

Explain to students that they are going to be creating their own identity cards that will tell others about their own identity and the important influences on their identity. However they have to do it without using words. What could they use instead to represent things about themselves? Explain that they will be using symbols to show as much as they can about their identity. Ask them to think of some examples, such as what could be used for religion or hobbies.

6. Creating the cards

Give students the planning sheets to roughly plan their cards. Each student will then need a piece of card the same size as the box on the planning sheet to create their actual cards. They can put their name on the back but should avoid doing so on the front.

7. What are the differences and similarities of our class?

Mix up the cards and give one to each member of the class, making sure they do not select their own. Ask the students to try and guess who each of the cards belonged to. Get them to consider the visible and non visible clues on the card. Ask each student to select two visible and two non visible features / influences from the card they are holding (it doesn't matter if they get repeated). Write up all the features / influences that they raise. Once everyone has taken a turn, look at the features and influences written up and identify what it tells us about the class? What sort of similarities do they all share? What are the main differences? Do they think its important to know about the differences and similarities? Why? Why not? Do they think it's important to understand why these differences exist? What sort of things do they think could be done to help people see similarities and differences between different groups e.g. religious groups, ethnic groups, friendship groups. What could be done to help people understand more about each other?

8. Research a theme

Create a display using all the ID cards created. Photos and images could be added. Ask students to choose one feature of another student's identity, e.g. their culture and research it. They need to find out 5 – 10 facts about their chosen theme and present it back to the class. The findings could be written up as large quotes and put on the display.

Volunteering Ideas

Put learning into practice by organising your school CSV Make a Difference Day project around this theme. Here are some activity ideas:

- Organise a cultural day, with different ethnic foods and games – try Kabbadi, American football, Sumo wrestling or Carrom, a board game
- Launch a mentoring scheme for new students arriving into the country
- Students teach mini lessons or workshops about different cultures and identities within school.