



# Find something you have in common with a classmate.

Art by Luke, age 12, Kansas, USA



## Get Inspired

### Quote

"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What? You too? I thought I was the only one!'"

CS Lewis

### Fact

Both similarities and differences hold great significance. Differences allow for new experiences while similarities help us understand and appreciate experiences we already have.



## Shake It Up

1. Stand up and choose one of these activities: Jumping Jacks, running in place or freestyle dancing.
2. When your teacher says "go," do your chosen activity for 1 minute.
3. Take a look at your classmates and see if anyone chose the same activity as you!  
"I am curious about others!"



## Talk It Out

1. Why do you think it is important to enjoy each other's differences? Similarities?
2. Have you ever experienced a time where you felt uncomfortable because you didn't think you had any similarities with a group of people? How did that make you feel?
3. How does it make you feel to have things in common with others? Can you share a time when you had this experience?



## Do It!

1. Let's find out what we have in common with each other!
2. Grab a dark marker and a few pieces of paper.
3. When your teacher asks a question, write down your answer.
4. When your teacher prompts you, hold up your response so everyone can see
5. When you notice that two people have something in common, celebrate as a class!!
6. Keep going until everyone has found something in common with at least one other person.

# Find something you have in common with a classmate.

## SEL Competencies

### Self-Awareness

Accurate Self-  
Perception

### Social Awareness

Appreciating Diversity  
Respect for Others

### Relationship Skills

Communication  
Social Engagement  
Relationship Building  
Teamwork

## Timeframe

15 – 30 min

## Materials Required

Paper  
Dark marker or pencil



## Get Inspired

### Quote

Invite a student to read the quote.

### Fact

Both similarities and differences hold great significance. Differences allow for new experiences while similarities help us understand and appreciate experiences we already have.

Source: Penn State University



## Shake It Up

Get your students moving. Invite them to do the following:

1. Stand up and choose one of these activities: Jumping Jacks, running in place or freestyle dancing.
2. When you say "go," have students do their chosen activity for 1 minute.
3. Have students take a look at their classmates and see if anyone chose the same activities they did. (We are already finding things in common!)
4. When finished, have them say, "I am curious about others!"



## Talk It Out

Encourage your students to reflect on the provided questions.

1. Why do you think it is important to enjoy each other's differences? Similarities?
2. Have you ever experienced a time where you felt uncomfortable because you didn't think you had any similarities with a group of people? How did that make you feel?
3. How does it make you feel to have things in common with others? Can you share a time when you had this experience?



## Do It! (as a class or individually)

1. Help students find out what they have in common with each other.
2. Have students grab a dark marker and a few pieces of paper.
3. Ask a question & give students 20-seconds to write down their response.
4. Say, "On the count of 3, show me your answers. 1, 2, 3..."
5. Have all students hold up their response so everyone can see.
6. Encourage students to notice and celebrate when at least two people have something in common.
7. Keep going until everyone has found something in common with at least one other person.
8. Sample Questions: favorite ice cream flavor, favorite cartoon, what do you want to be when you grow up?, favorite color, favorite emoji, favorite book, favorite place, number of siblings, number of languages they speak, favorite season (The list should start with more diverse questions and taper to less diverse questions to help identify the similarities of students.)