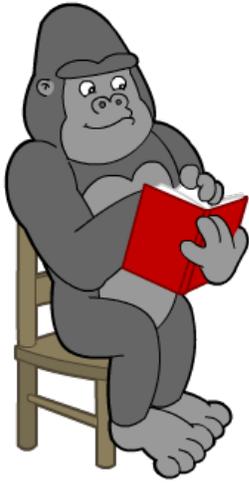


# SOCIAL INITIATION LESSON: FINDING COMMON INTERESTS



students will

- Initiate conversations by asking others questions
- Form relationships based on common interests

materials

- Find Someone Who worksheet
- pencils/markers

approximate lesson length: 30 minutes

## Pre-Activity Discussion (7 minutes)

Begin by asking the group to think of a time when they were in a new situation with people they did not know, like starting at a new school or attending summer camp for the first time. Ask the following questions:

- Do you like meeting or talking to new people? Why or why not?
- How does it feel to approach someone you don't know to ask them a question or start a conversation?
- What are some ways you can do that politely? Is this different if there is more than one person there?
- Is there anything you should avoid doing when approaching someone new?

**SAY:** It's understandable to be anxious about talking to new people. This game will help us practice so we can be more confident.

Brainstorm some phrases that students can use when approaching their classmates and write them on the board. For example:

"Excuse me, I'm wondering if you're someone who...?" or "Hi, I'm [name]. I love to swim, do you?"

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## Activity (15 minutes)

1. **SAY:** In this game, you'll have to walk around and find a classmate who fits the description in each box on the page, and have that classmate sign his or her name in the box.
2. **SAY:** You should use the strategies we just talked about to confidently and politely approach classmates for their signatures.
3. Role play with a student to demonstrate before you have the whole class start. For example, say to the student "Hi, I'm Ms. Woods. I hate bees. Do you?" If the student says yes, ask him to sign your "hates bees" box.
4. Play until students have gotten a signature in each box. Be sure to walk among students and comment on how they are initiating with each other.

## Post-Activity Discussion (7 minutes)

After the activity has been completed, guide discussion with these questions:

- How did it feel to approach new people?
- Was anything about it difficult? Easy?
- What was it like to have to approach a group of people, rather than someone who was by herself?
- Did you learn about anything you had in common with any of your classmates that you didn't know before?

## Educator Notes

# SOCIAL INITIATION LESSON: FINDING COMMON INTERESTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Find a classmate that fits the description in one of the boxes using appropriate initiation strategies, and have him or her sign their name in the box.

has a dog	hates bees	has blond hair	plays a sport	loves hot dogs
has gotten stitches	has an older sibling	loves the color orange	reads for fun	has lived in another state
plays soccer	has blue eyes	has been out of the country	has a younger sibling	sings
loves to swim	wears glasses	is new to the school	has a cat	hates spiders
plays an instrument	has been to a zoo	has been camping	is taller than you	loves to draw