

Section I: Introducing Culture and Development

Activity 1

Spot the Difference

Aim:

To highlight how we have similarities and differences with different people, and to explore how we form attitudes to different groups.

Age:

8+

Time:

20 mins

Materials:

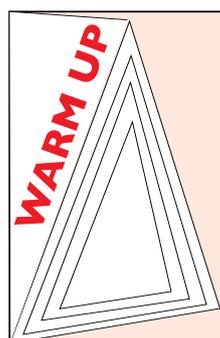
List of opposite groups (if you change the list to statements you'll need agree/disagree cards and sticky tape), open space

What to do: Gather the group in the centre of the room/space. Explain that you will read out various groups/identities and they have to decide which one they belong to and move to a particular end of the room. To avoid confusion, the first group called always goes to the left, and the second goes to the right. If any participant is unsure or doesn't belong to either group, they can stay in the centre. Continue calling groups at a snappy pace. After a couple of rounds, ask the groups what they think of people who belong to the other group? What images come to mind?

After you call out all the groups, gather in a circle to debrief.

Debrief: Was it easy to put yourself in a group each time? Were you embarrassed by admitting to any of the groups? Which groups did you feel uncomfortable about? Which did you feel good about? Were the comments/impressions that the other groups had of you fair or unfair? Can you think of any groups in the world who might feel like they are unfairly portrayed? Do you think how we view other groups is based on fact or opinion? Where do we get our facts or opinions from?

Alternative: This activity can also be run as a moving debate, assign one end of the room Agree and the other Disagree. Create statements based on the identities and encourage people to justify why they are standing where they are.



The Name Game

Ask participants to introduce themselves to the person next to them. Ask them to explain where their name came from (first or surname) e.g. Is it from a particular place? Who chose it? Does it have a special meaning? Is it religious? Is it the name of a family member etc? Write down reasons behind names. Do our names show similarity or diversity?

Examples of Opposite Groups to use..

To warm-up...

- ☆ Light Sleepers / Heavy Sleepers
- ☆ Football Lovers / Football Haters
- ☆ Vegetarian / Meat-eater
- ☆ Irish / Foreign
- ☆ Religious / non-Religious
- ☆ Been to America / never been to America

Getting harder...

- ☆ Has a friend who was born outside Ireland / doesn't have a friend who was born outside Ireland
- ☆ Thinks Ireland is for the Irish / Thinks Ireland is for anybody who wants to be here
- ☆ Thinks America is for Americans / Thinks America is for anybody who wants to be there
- ☆ Thinks marriage should be between a man and a woman / Thinks marriage should be between any couple
- ☆ Thinks young people should be allowed to vote at 16 in Ireland / Thinks young people should not be allowed vote at 16 in Ireland
- ☆ Thinks unemployed people should have to work to receive the dole / Thinks unemployed people should not have to work to receive the dole
- ☆ Thinks relatives and friends should be allowed to keep bad photos of you / Thinks relatives and friends should not be allowed to keep bad photos of you
- ☆ Thinks social networking sites should be allowed to keep personal data / Thinks social networking sites should not be allowed to keep personal data

Global Development and Justice issues...

- ☆ Buys Fairtrade products / Doesn't buy Fairtrade products
- ☆ Thinks we should only contribute to charities working on issues in Ireland / Thinks we should only contribute to charities working on issues abroad
- ☆ Thinks all people are responsible to stop climate change / Thinks somebody else is responsible to stop climate change
- ☆ Has a different impression of South Africa since the World Cup / Has the same impression of South Africa since the World Cup
- ☆ Thinks political leaders in Ireland are better than political leaders in the Global South / Thinks political leaders in Ireland are not better than political leaders in the Global South
- ☆ Thinks journalists should be allowed to write any story they think is important / Thinks journalists should be restricted in what they can write about
- ☆ Thinks that people should be protected from negative media / Thinks that people should not be protected from negative media

Note to leader:

It is important to stress that we are giving opinions about the groups we identify in the game and not about individual young people who assign themselves to a particular group.