

Renee Cunningham

What's in a name? 45 min

Objective:

Students will be able to make connections with their peers by discovery the individuality of everyone's names and participating in group team-building activities.

Big Idea:

Our names make us all unique and help us all connect.

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 10 min

Read wonder together as a class or in pairs. Take note, does anyone in your class have one of the "popular" names? Are there any names on the list you have never heard of?

2. Investigation and New Learning 15 min

Make a circle around the room. Each person will introduce themselves with their name, and a word and action to represent themselves that starts with the same letter as their name.

Example: My name is Renee, and I like to run (*done while jogging in place*).

Ask each person to repeat the person beside them. At the end issue a challenge: invite anyone to try to repeat everyone in the circle.

3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

Have each person make an acrostic poem with their name...they can write a word or phrase beside each letter to describe themselves, their hobbies, or talents. For students with more than 8 letters in their name, encourage them to do every-other letter (for the sake of time).



For younger students, they can also draw pictures to represent themselves.

Conduct a gallery walk (students leave their poems on their desk and walk around to see each others') to share.

Display in a place of prominence in the room to celebrate everyone's unique name.

Note: ??Note to teacher?: This lesson is designed to be used at the beginning of the year, as class culture is being cultivated. Can also be used as part of morning meeting or a team-building exercise.