

Character and Life Skills: Peace

SEL Focus: Relationship Skills

Lesson Title: Friendship Lab

Grade Level: 3-5



Project and Purpose

Students identify and chart things friends do and say that exemplify friendship and peace.

Essential Question

What do friends say and do to demonstrate peaceful friendships?

Materials

- Chart paper/large blank paper
- Sticky notes (multiple colors)
- Writing tools
- **Friendship Sociology Report**

Introduction

1. Tell students that you are going to pretend to be a sociologist, a scientist who studies people and human behavior. Self-narrate as you adjust anything you are wearing or your posture to physically “become” a sociologist, and then assume a sociologist’s voice. Give yourself a sociologist name; this can be as simple as adding “Professor” or “Doctor” to your last name, or you can conjure up a unique sociologist name.
2. Greet the students in your sociologist character and explain that you have been communicating with aliens from another planet. You reached out with an offer of friendship, and the aliens did not understand this concept. “What are friends? What do friends do? What do friends say? How do friends keep the peace when they disagree?” asked the aliens. You need to help the aliens understand what friends say and do and how they create peace, and who better to work with than other sociologists right in this classroom!

Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Post a blank paper where everyone can see and draw a T chart framework on the paper. Label the left side “Say” and the right side “Do.”
2. In your sociologist role, think aloud about an example of friendly, peaceful actions or phrases and write it on a sticky note, posting it on the correct side of the chart. Remind your scientific self that sociologists are the best observers in the world; they observe every detail of human behavior very well. Think out loud about other examples of real friendships and peace you have observed.

Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Explain to students that they will play sociologist today and create the definitive chart on friendship and peace, one that will explain what friends say and do clearly to the aliens.
2. Guide them through adjusting their bodies and voices to become sociologists. How do sociologists sit? How do they stand? How do they move? How do they speak? Why? (NOTE: It is important to embrace the idea that anyone can be a sociologist and they might not want to make any changes to assume the role. Explain that they are actors playing a role, and good actors always make some adjustment to their voice or their body when taking on a role. It does not have to be large or stereotypical; sometimes they do something as simple as changing the way they part their hair or untying their shoes or putting on a jacket or sweater. The important thing is that they make a small change to play a different character.)
3. Go around the room, shake hands with each sociologist and have them introduce themselves.
4. Review how social sociologists are professional observers and encourage them to discuss their observations on friendships and peace with their fellow sociologists.

Independent Practice (You do)

1. Distribute the post-it notes and instruct sociologists to write one observation of what friends say or do and/or how they create peace per sticky note and post the notes on the chart.
2. When all sociologists have posted their observations, select a pair of volunteer sociologists to come up and read the notes.
3. Then ask another pair of sociologists to group the sticky notes into categories. What categories will they use? Why?
4. Ask one more set of volunteer sociologists to consider other ways to group the suggestions.

Conclusion

Remind the group that sociologists always write up their observations in a report. Give each scientist a copy of the Peaceful Friendship Sociology Report page and tell them to write the most important thing they learned, noticed, or determined from this experience that will help the aliens understand what friends on earth say and do to show their friendship.

Notes

Character and Life Skills: Peace
SEL Focus: Relationship Skills
Activity: Peaceful Friendship Sociology Report
Grade Level: 3-5

Sociologist Name

Date

Real Name

What We Say and Do	My Words
The two most important things friends say to each other to demonstrate peaceful friendship are...	
The two most important things friends do for or with each other to demonstrate peaceful friendship are...	
<p>Based on your brilliant powers of observation and analysis, write a brief set of directions that would help an alien know when and how to say or do these things to demonstrate a peaceful friendship. Include specific, helpful details:</p> <hr/>	