



ACTIVITY: 'MY ORCHARD'

TIME: 15+ minutes
SIZE: Individuals
SPACE: No special requirements
RESOURCES: Pens, paper

The aim is for students to consider the groups that they belong to, and what belonging to those groups means to them.

The result should be an appreciation that people belong to many diverse groups, that they have different roles in some of those groups, and they get different things from feeling part of these groups.

1. Students will be drawing an orchard of trees. Each tree will represent a group that the student belongs to.
2. Every tree will have a trunk, roots, branches, leaves and fruit or flowers, all of which can represent different things. For example, a student might draw one tree that symbolises her soccer club, with the roots representing the history of that club; on another tree symbolising her family, a student might represent herself as one of the fruit or flowers; on yet another representing her close circle of friends, she is a root and the fruit are laughter and good times shared. Thorns might represent challenges.
3. Consider limiting the number of trees that students draw, depending on time available.
4. Have students prepared to share their work show it to other students during discussion.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- Were you surprised by the number of groups you feel you belong to?
- How would you describe your orchard? Diverse? Rich? Tangled?
- How are groups like trees (e.g. living organisms that can grow or whither)? How are all parts of trees **and** all members of groups important to the whole?
- Did the process of thinking about the groups you belong to alter the way you think and feel about any of those groups? In what way? Why?
- Why is it valuable to regularly think about the groups you belong to, and their importance to you?