



ACTIVITY: 'NATURAL SELECTION'

TIME: 10–15 minutes
SIZE: Whole of class
SPACE: Clear space for students to mingle
RESOURCES: Slips of paper, pens

The aim is for students to consider certain qualities or values they possess, and to seek these out in other people to form a like-minded group.

The result should be an appreciation of the importance of belonging to a group comprised of members with the same qualities/values.

1. Ask students to consider: if they were not human, what kind of animal or living thing would they see themselves as most like?
2. Have them write their choice down on a slip of paper (as proof!) and place their slips in their pockets.
3. Instruct the participants that they are to now mingle around in an attempt to find others like themselves to form a herd, pride, pod or flock. You can choose whether they 'stylise' their performance as animals and use human speech, or if they try to act as much like their animals as possible and use sounds to find one another. Note that lions might try to eat zebras, and sharks might jump at parrots! Allow no more than 10 minutes for this interaction.
4. Stop the activity. Commence discussion.



DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

- What criteria did you use to select your animal type? Why that animal?
- What were you thinking at the start of the exercise when you were told you had to mingle? How did you regard the other students? What did that make you feel?
- How did you feel when you found one or more 'animals' like yourself? Why?
- If you didn't find anyone like yourself, why not? What did that make you think and feel?
- How are animals like the one you chose rewarded for being part of a group?
- Humans no longer need to band together for safety against sabre-toothed tigers – so what, instead, do we modern humans 'get' from the groups we form?