

What's in a Name?



OBJECTIVE

This activity gives students the opportunity to work as members of a team and to create a unique, united identity.

Teacher Instructions

1. Divide class into teams of three to five members each.
2. Direct the teammates to work together to create a team name and logo that represents them.
3. Have each team fill out the "What's in a Name" activity sheet (on the CD) that includes the information below.
4. Ask each team to appoint a spokesperson who will present their team's identity to the rest of the class.

Next to the team members' names, write down one word or symbol that best describes or represents that person.

Team Members

Descriptive Word or Symbol

Using the names and the descriptive words or symbols above, work together to develop a team name and a logo that represents all members of your team.

Team Name: _____

Our Team
Logo

Team Mobile

OBJECTIVE

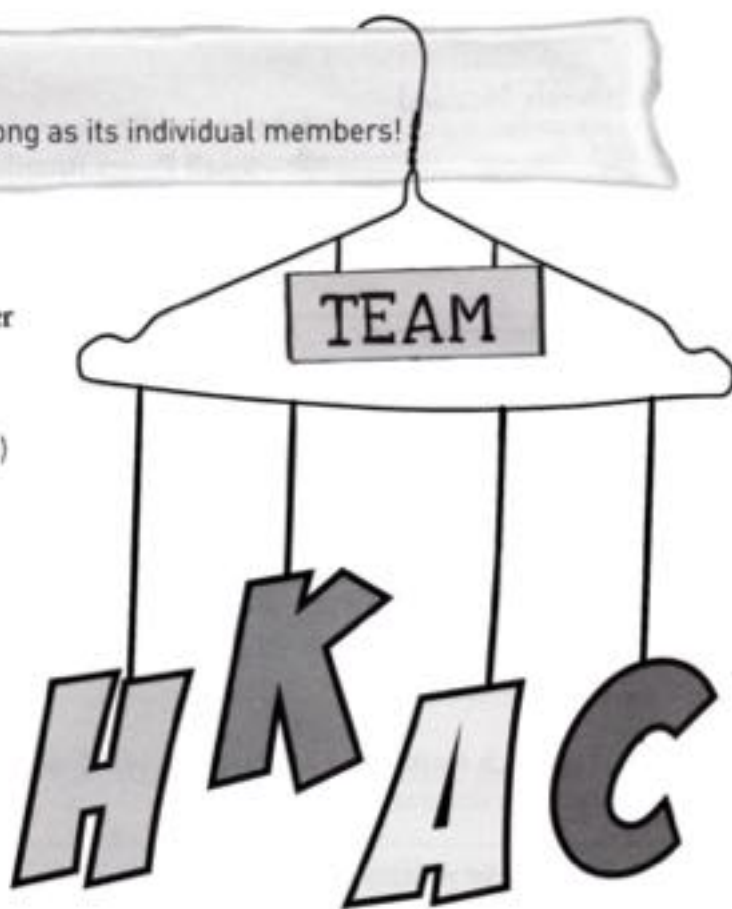
Students will learn that a team is only as strong as its individual members!

Materials Needed

- ✦ One blank piece of paper per team member
- ✦ Pens or pencils, fine line markers
- ✦ Letter cut-out of first initial of each team member's name (see CD for letter patterns)
- ✦ One metal hanger per team
- ✦ Yarn
- ✦ Hole Punch
- ✦ Construction paper

Teacher Instructions

1. Have students write their names at the top of a blank piece of paper.
2. Each student should list all of his or her personal strengths on the paper (for example, flexible, hard-working, nice, smart, respectful, etc.)
3. Allow time for teammates to add to each other's strength lists.
4. When the lists are completed, students should trace the first letter of their name onto a piece of construction paper and cut it out. (They may use the letter patterns on the CD, or they can each create their own initial.)
5. Using a fine line marker, have students copy the strengths from their lists onto their initial.
6. Have each team create a sign with the team's name that can hang inside of the triangular part of the hanger
7. Punch holes in the top of the team sign and attach the sign to the hanger with yarn, so that it hangs inside of the triangular opening.
8. Punch holes in each of the initials and hang them from the bottom part of the hanger with the yarn.
9. Display team mobiles in class by hanging them from the ceiling of the classroom.



It's Puzzling!

TEACHER NOTE: Watching students work together doing jigsaw puzzles is a great way to observe natural leaders in action and to assess your students' deductive and inductive reasoning skills.

OBJECTIVE

Demonstrate to students how group work increases productivity.

Materials Needed

- Small reward for winning group/person. (Use praise coupons, stickers, small pieces of candy, etc.)
- Four to six 100-piece jigsaw puzzles, preferably of the same picture or as similar as possible in art style. (For younger students, you may use puzzles with fewer pieces.)

Teacher Instructions

1. Ask your class, "Who is really good at doing puzzles?"
2. Select one student to work on his or her own.
3. Divide the rest of the class into groups of three to four students each.
4. Give one puzzle to each group, including the single student working alone.
5. Explain to them that the first group/person finished, gets a reward.
6. Have all groups and the individual student start doing the puzzles at the same time.
7. When the first puzzle is completed by the group, stop the activity and discuss what has happened.

Discussion Questions

- The groups were able to get farther on the puzzles than the student who worked by him/herself. Why do you think that is?
- What positive things did you hear being said by members of your group during this activity?
- Did you hear any negative things being said by members of your group? If so, what were they?
- When a teammate says something negative during an activity, how does it affect the team?
- Ask the student who worked alone how it feels to compete against teams of several people each.

Activity Variations

- You can use more than one student to do puzzles individually and compete against the groups.
- Walk around while the activity is going on and write down everything positive that you hear the kids saying to each other. Share those comments with your students at the end of the activity and reinforce the effect of positive talk among team members and how it affects productivity.

Teamwork and Sharing Recognition

Teacher Instructions

1. Watch your students' behavior and look for times (individually and collectively) when they demonstrate the skills of working as a team and sharing.
2. Use the praise coupons on these pages and on the CD (color versions are included) to recognize and reward their use of these social skills.



CONGRATULATIONS!

For caring and sharing, you may

NAME & DATE