

Lesson/Activity Title:

CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES IN THE CLASSROOM



Time: Approximately 15-20 minutes for the focus and introduction of the lesson; approximately 10-20 minutes for modeling and guided practice; approximately 45-60 minutes for independent practice; and approximately 10 minutes for closing discussion.

Instructional Goals:

- The students will use the **PebbleGo** online database to learn about respect and tolerance.
- The students will identify specific ways to demonstrate respect and tolerance.
- The students will interview a classmate.
- The students will compare and contrast their answers and discuss how this promotes respect and tolerance among classmates and within the community.

Integrated Content Standards

- National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) (<https://www.socialstudies.org/standards>)
- Common Core English Language Arts/Literacy Standards (www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/)
- NCTE/IRA Standards for English Language Arts (www.ncte.org/standards/ncte-ira)
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students (<https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>)

Materials/Resources:

- **PebbleGo Social Studies** online database
- How Can I Show Respect and Tolerance Handout
- Classmate Interview Handout
- Magazines
- Scissors, glue, and other art supplies

Procedures/Lesson Activities:

Focus

1. Bring the class together and introduce the concepts of respect and tolerance. Write out both words on a whiteboard. Ask students to describe what those words mean to them, then have them give you some examples of actions exhibiting those concepts. Record their responses and discuss as a group. Ask prompting questions such as:
 - › What does respect look like in our classroom? What does respect look like in the community?
 - › How does showing respect in our classroom make everyone feel included?
 - › Why is tolerance important in our classroom? Why is it important in our community?

2. Ask students to imagine what it would be like if everyone in the classroom were exactly the same. Brainstorm and record their responses. Ask prompting questions such as:
 - › What would this classroom be like if everyone was good at the same thing?
 - › What would happen if everyone in this classroom liked the same sports team?
 - › What if everyone in the school looked exactly alike? How could we show our individuality?
3. Discuss the importance of celebrating differences among classmates and members of the community. Briefly explain how demonstrating respect and tolerance lead to a stronger community both in and out of the classroom.
4. Tell students that they will research these concepts behind creating a stronger community. They will interview a fellow classmate and learn about their similarities and differences.

Teach/Model

5. Demonstrate accessing the **PebbleGo** online database and navigate to the Being a Good Citizen Social Studies articles, including Respect and Tolerance. Review the option to listen in Spanish vs. English, depending on the student's native language.
6. Point out the read aloud feature and show students how to use it by clicking on the appropriate icon.
7. Click on a few of the tabs in the article such as "Tolerance at School" or "Why Is Tolerance Important" to show students how they can navigate back and forth within the article.
8. Pass out the How I Can Show Respect and Tolerance handout. Read the directions with students and demonstrate how to use the articles from the **PebbleGo** database to fill in the chart.
9. Remind students of the importance of giving credit to their research source. Show students where to find the source information by clicking on the "cite" button and model filling out the bibliography portion of the research handout.
10. Distribute Classmate Interview handout and read the directions to students. Explain that after they learn about the concepts of respect and tolerance, they will practice these ideas themselves.

Guided Practice

11. Navigate to the Social Studies unit within the **PebbleGo** online database and pull up the article on tolerance.
12. Direct students to the Classmate Interview handout. Ask students for a volunteer. Select one of the interview questions from the handout and ask your student the question. Record the answer in its appropriate location on the handout.
13. Demonstrate looking through a magazine for a picture that represents the answer. For example, if the answer to the question, "What is your favorite color?" is blue, select a picture that represents this color. Cut it out and glue it on the chart on the appropriate column. Demonstrate this process once more using your answer to the interview question.

Independent Practice



14. Assign partners or allow students to choose a partner with whom they want to work with and interview. Remind groups that working together for this activity helps reinforce the ideas of respect and tolerance.
15. Ask the groups to review the two articles Respect and Tolerance on the **PebbleGo** online database. Have them complete the How Can I Show Respect and Tolerance handout. Students only need to complete one copy of this handout per pair.
16. Have students complete their interview using the Classmate Interview handout after finishing their research. They should utilize magazines or provided art supplies.

Closure

17. Bring students together as a class and ask each pair to introduce their partner and discuss their similarities and differences.
18. Lead a group discussion that helps students make the connection between celebrating differences and the concepts of tolerance and respect.

Extend/Enrich

- Have students write their own interview questions rather than providing them.
- Ask students to create a Venn diagram showcasing the similarities and differences in their partner's answers.
- Invite students to complete this interview with other individuals within their school or community.

Names: _____

How Can I Show Respect and Tolerance?

Work with your partner to fill in the chart comparing respect and tolerance using the **PebbleGo** online database.

Location	Example of How We Can Show Respect	Example of How We Can Show Tolerance
At School		
At Home		
In Our Community		

Bibliography: _____

Names: _____

Classmate Interview

Ask your partner these interview questions. Use pictures from magazines or art supplies to illustrate their responses.

Question	Partner's Answer	Your Answer
What is your favorite food?		
What do you like most about school?		

<p>What is your favorite sport?</p>		
<p>What is your favorite color?</p>		
<p>Who do you admire most?</p>		