



Importance of Diversity: Classroom Lesson Plan

Lesson Topic:

Importance of Diversity

Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to define diversity and explain why diversity is important in various settings (i.e., the classroom, the workplace).

Materials:

- Dictionary
- Chart paper for Word Map
- Projector or other method to watch the movie

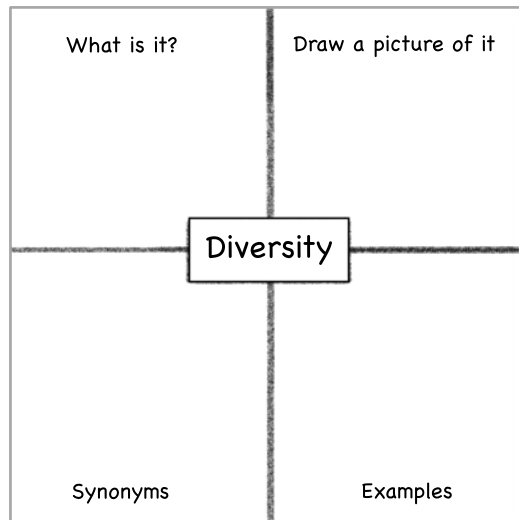
Advanced Preparation:

- [Preview the video](#) before sharing it with your students [1:26].

Warm-up Activity:

1. Introduce the topic of diversity using an example from your own life.
2. Based on your preview of the video and your knowledge of your students, determine which words to pre-teach. Focus on those that relate most directly to the video topic of diversity and will enhance understanding.

3. Begin by teaching the word diversity (diverse) based on a dictionary definition. Use a Word Map, such as the sample below, to enhance understanding.



4. Guide students to understand that diversity is all of the ways people are different.
5. Additional words/phrases to consider pre-teaching: *culture, bilingual, ethnic background, perspective, valuable.*

View the Video: "Importance of Diversity"

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, "Importance of Diversity".
2. Explain that the video presents role models talking about the value of diversity. For example, the different languages people speak and the different ways people have of solving problems.
3. View the video together and encourage students to listen for the words *diversity* and *diverse*.
4. View the video again. This time, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the ideas discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.

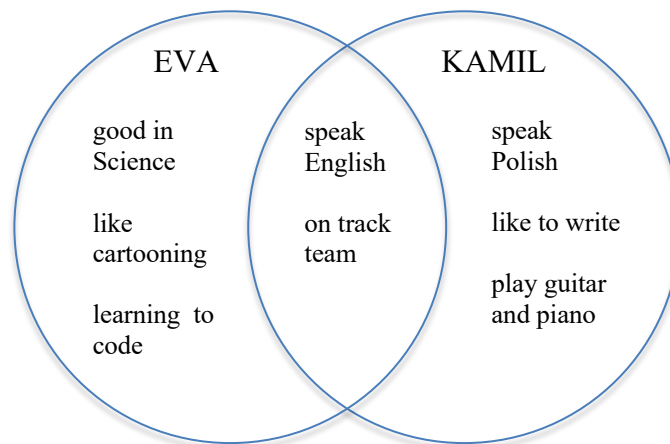


Video Follow-up:

1. Ask students to offer their questions, comments, reactions and responses to the video.
2. Revisit the first sentence in the video: "One of the most valuable things to any group is diversity." Invite students to restate this sentence in their own words, for example, "It's helpful to have people in your group who are not all the same." Repeat with other phrases and statements from the video to build understanding.
3. Based on the video, what are some valuable differences that people bring to any group? (i.e., upbringing, education, culture, language, appearance, gender, ethnic backgrounds, perspectives) What other differences can students add to this list? Why are these differences valuable?
4. Based on the video, ask students why they think it is helpful for companies to employ people who speak more than one language. For example, "If you work for a company that sells things or has business in another country, it helps if you can speak the language of that country."
5. Return to the Word Map from the Warm-up Activity. Have students suggest changes or additions they would make after viewing and discussing the video.

Extension Activities:

1. Use the “Related Questions to Explore” as discussion springboards or writing prompts to help students further explore the importance of diversity.
2. Explore the topic of diversity as it relates to the classroom to help students recognize the value of their own differences. Using a Venn diagram, have students work in pairs to identify likes/skills/abilities/etc. that they have in common and those that are different.



Related Questions to Explore:

- Think about working on a team—such as with a group project, a team sport, or the school play. Do you agree or disagree with the statement, “Differences are more valuable than similarities”? Explain your answer.
- In what ways is our class [school, community] diverse? What would it be like if everyone was exactly the same?
- True or False: “Diversity is only about the differences you can see.” Explain your answer.



- Can you think of a problem in our [class, school, community, country, world]? How do you think a team of students/people with different ways of thinking could help solve this problem?
- What is something you've learned from someone whose ideas are different from your own?
- What is a career you might like to have someday? How do you think speaking more than one language might be helpful in this career? What other types of diversity might be useful?



Ideas for Future Lessons/Activities Related to Diversity:

1. School-Home Connection: Identifying Diversity in Our Classroom
2. Diversity in Cinema: *Monsters University* and the Inherent Differences Between People
3. What Would You Do? Challenging Scenarios Dealing with Diversity
4. Women Who Have Overcome Challenges: Diversity in the Workplace
5. Diversity in Our Community: What the Census Tells Us
6. Literature-Based Learning: Comparing Diversity in the Past to Today's World
7. Learning About Others Through Writing: Comparing and Contrasting Ourselves with Pen Pals in Other Countries