

Identity Island

Respectful Relationships

To support students in identifying and celebrating the unique aspects of themselves and others through creative exploration and connection, strengthening relationships and valuing diversity.



Learning Intentions

Students learn to explore and describe the different parts of their identities.

This builds confidence and pride in who we are, where we come from, and what we value.

Students aim to listen to and learn from others who have different stories and experiences.

This develops empathy, curiosity, and inclusion.

Students learn to understand how knowing each other better helps people build respectful and inclusive friendships.

This promotes connection, belonging, and a strong classroom culture.



Success Criteria

Self-Awareness:

Students can name and describe key parts of their identity (e.g. values, hobbies, background).

Empathy & Curiosity:

Students can ask thoughtful questions and listen respectfully to others' stories.

Inclusion:

Students can explain how understanding identity helps create stronger friendships and a more welcoming classroom.



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Objective:

To support students in identifying and celebrating the unique aspects of themselves and others through creative exploration and connection, strengthening relationships and valuing diversity.

Players:

Whole class or small groups (4–6 students per group)

Materials:

- A3 “Identity Island” template or blank A3 paper (found in PDF resource tab)
- Coloured pencils
- Large wall or floor space for class “Map of Us” collage
- Optional: small boat cut-outs with student names for sailing between islands

Setup:

If you wish for the students to create their own Identity boats to add some fun and creativity to this activity, begin by having the students design and create these first.

Assign each student an Island location (most likely a table they sit at or a space on the floor). Each student creates their own island, either using the template provided or using blank A3 paper, encouraging students to create their island with colour, symbols, and details to represent their identity. Encourage creativity, this is a visual and storytelling adventure! (see the PDF resource for ideas on what sections of their Island they can create).

Activity:

1. Design Your Identity Island:

Students draw and fill in their personal island with symbols, images, or words that reflect:

- Their values (e.g. kindness, honesty, fun)
- Cultural or family traditions
- Favourite hobbies or interests
- Personality traits and strengths
- Future goals or dreams

2. Sail & Share:

Taking it in turns, students “sail” to others’ islands by moving between tables or desks. In each visit, they:

- Ask questions about that student’s identity, culture or interests.
- Share a connection or respectful observation
- Write or draw one thing they learned on a sticky note or on their “boat”

3. Create the Map of Us:

Once everyone has had a turn sailing to the other islands, as a class, compile key themes, values, and traditions into a shared “Map of Us” (use another blank island template).

Group popular or unique values, backgrounds, and goals together to show collective identity and to celebrate the differences amongst the group.

4. Reflect & Celebrate:

Discuss:

- What makes your island (identity) special?
- What’s something you learned from another island?
- Why is it important to respect different identities?



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Reflection Prompts:

- What part of your island are you most proud of?
- How does understanding someone's background help us be better friends?
- What surprised or inspired you about someone else's island?

Winning the Game:

Everyone "wins" by building a stronger, kinder, more inclusive community where every story matters. The *Map of Us* becomes a powerful classroom visual to revisit and reflect on throughout the term.

Additional Notes:

Identity Island is a fun, creative, and thoughtful way to bring the values of diversity, self-expression, and inclusion to life. It helps students explore identity not as something we "label," but as something we *celebrate*, making room for empathy, friendship, and connection.



IDENTITY ISLAND TEMPLATE

YOUR VALUES (E.G. KINDNESS, HONESTY, FUN)

CULTURAL OR FAMILY TRADITIONS

FAVOURITE HOBBIES OR INTERESTS

PERSONALITY TRAITS AND STRENGTHS

FUTURE GOALS OR DREAMS



BLANK IDENTITY ISLAND TEMPLATE

