

GROW YOUR PALS PROGRAM GUIDE



THE NATIONAL FFA MENTORING PROGRAM

Sponsored by



ACTIVITY

1.7

Potato People

Unit: TEAMWORK

PRECEPTS

H. Social Growth

H1. Acknowledge that differences exist among people

NATIONAL STANDARDS

CS.01.05.03.b. Engage in activities to help develop personal awareness of diversity.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

As a result of this lesson, the student will ...

- Define diversity.
- Discuss the importance of diversity among people.





TIME

Instruction time for this lesson: **30 minutes.**



NUMBER OF STUDENTS

A pair of students to an entire class.



TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- ✓ **Large baking potatoes** – at least one per person
- ✓ **Buttons** – Two per potato (*look for the “eye” buttons you see on some toys*)
- ✓ **Dishwashing scrubber or yarn**
- ✓ **Clay or play dough** – One to two containers
- ✓ **Ribbons** – a few inches each of various types
- ✓ **Colored felt** – One to two squares
- ✓ **Toothpicks** – One container
- ✓ **Scissors** – one per person



DESCRIPTION

Together we will create our own population of potato people! Among this population, each individual will have different traits, such as hair color or height. This difference is like diversity among our own population.

DIRECTIONS

1. *Create a discussion about the similarities and differences that exist among friends and families. Highlight individual differences in the conversation.*



Tell me about your family or friends. What do you have in common with these individuals?

How are you different from them?

2. *Introduce the supplies and goal of today's activity. If there is a small group of you, create a couple of small potatoes each to see the diversity we will discuss.*



Using these potatoes, let's make a group of people. Just like your friends and family, there will be similarities and difference among all of our potato people.

3. *Create potato people using the supplies. Emphasize that there will be similarities among the potato people and that there should be differences as well. To ensure diversity, consider constructing your potato people and then hiding them until you "introduce them."*



As we create our potato people, there will be similarities, but each one should also have some differences to make it unique and special. For example, one potato could have yarn for hair, another ribbon and another a dishwashing scrubber...be creative and make sure they are all different!

4. *Take a look at the potato people. Help your PALS identify the similarities and differences among the population of potato people.*



What are the similarities among our potato population?

What are the differences among our potato population?

How is this population of potato people similar to the population of people around us?

5. *Spark a discussion about the importance of individuals each being different.*



There are similarities among our potato people simply because they are all made of potatoes, just like there are similarities among people, because we are all people.

Let's focus on what makes us unique and different from others.

6. Help your PALS understand that the label for these differences that exist in a population is called "diversity." This diversity exists in potatoes, plants, animals and people.



We refer to these differences in a population as diversity. Diversity exists in plants, animals and people. Why do you think diversity is so important?

7. Conduct a discussion on why diversity is important in a population.



Diversity makes each of us special and ensures that we have people to do different jobs, that are talented in different areas and that we have lots of ideas. Nature has proven that diversity is important to allow us to adapt to our changing surroundings.

For example, we need males and females in a population. In the United States, 49 percent of the population is male and 51 percent is female.

8. Encourage working as a team to clean up after the activity.



What a diverse group of potatoes. Let's get everything cleaned up and put away. What would you like to do with your potato people?

9. Celebrate the success of the activity and wrap up using the connections questions below.



Great job creating the potato people!

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Discuss with your PALS the following questions:

1. Why would it have not been as fun to make a group of potatoes that looked exactly the same?
2. What do you call the differences among our potato population?

Diversity

3. Why is it important that diversity exists in a population?

We need people who have different skills, talents and traits for survival.

WRAP UP



Everyone around us is unique and different. This diversity makes our world a better place and helps us to see why differences are important. Celebrate the diversity that exists among the people around you!