

Today's Challenges; Today's Leaders:

REAL WORLD CONVERSATIONS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Lesson Number: **TCTL.4.1**

The Diversity Around Us

Quick Reference:

Time Required:

45 minutes

Objectives:

After completing this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Describe the importance of diversity in our world.
2. Experience the diversity that exists among us.
3. Identify ways that unique traits can be looked at in positive and negative light.

Materials:

- ✓ Notebook paper
- ✓ Writing utensil
- ✓ TCTL.4.1.AS.A (one copy to share with the class)
- ✓ TCTL.4.1.AS.B (one copy per student)

Purpose:

The purpose of this lesson is to engage students in activities to develop an awareness of diversity.

Directions: *The bulleted information below is important to know as background information.*

- Diversity – an understanding that everyone is unique and offering acceptance and respect to others.
- Diversity is important because we are known by what makes us unique.
- Think about how boring our world would be if it lacked diversity – if everyone was the same, if there were no choices and decisions to make.
- We are all diverse, so we must remember to respect each other's differences no matter how unusual these differences may seem to us.

After reviewing the information above, begin with the lesson activities below.

1. Explain that it is easy to see the similarities within the class then list some similarities that exist within the class. Explain that the focus will be on what makes everyone different and unique.
2. Encourage students to first think about how they differ from others in the classroom and what makes them unique.
3. Students will create an "I Am" poem to identify some of their unique traits.
 - a. Use TCTL.4.1.AS.A. as an example for students to model.
 - b. Clarify expectations; then provide students 10 minutes to craft their own poems.



4. Divide the students into smaller groups and have each student share their poems with the group. Provide five minutes for sharing.
5. Once students have shared a variety of traits about themselves, use TCTL.4.1.AS.B to help them look deeper into the major traits that define them.
 - a. Ask students to highlight four of the traits from their “I Am” poster that they feel are the most important
 - b. Have student list these four traits in the circles on TCTL.4.1.AS.B.
 - c. Have students write their names in the middle starburst.
 - d. Have students add to each circle in the web by drawing lines and circles and explaining how these traits define them
6. Explain to students that diversity is vital to our world. The traits they identified should be valued and showcased as what makes them unique, not to be viewed as negative. For example, if you are a lover of books, it doesn't mean you are a lover of isolation.
7. Explore the different views of these traits, how they can be described as a unique trait or a negative trait. An example from a teacher's perspective could be this: I am an educator of students; I am not a torturer of children.
8. Encourage students to reflect on their four traits on their charts, select one trait and complete the statement at the bottom of the page using that trait. Remind students that appropriate terms must be used in the sentence.
9. Remind students that they encounter diversity all around them and that they have the choice to value it as unique or deem it negative. Remember that diversity is vital; students can be the change agents that help others respect the diversity around them.

Connection Questions:

1. We have discussed the importance of diversity in humans. Explain how diversity is vital to our world.
2. How can you help others respect and appreciate the diversity among us?

LifeKnowledge Connections

Precept(s) addressed:

H. Social Growth

H1. Acknowledge that differences exist among people

J. Mental Growth

J1. Think Critically

LK Lesson Suggestion:



HS.56 – Appreciating differences in people

HS.70 – The value of diversity on teams

Resource:

David O. McKay School of Education. Brigham Young University. (2011). *Diversity Activities*. Retrieved from <http://education.byu.edu/diversity/activities.html>.

I am...

I am an educator, a learner and a sharer of knowledge.

I am a mother, a sister, a daughter and a wife.

I am a creator of photographs and a reader of books.

I am a user of Facebook, Twitter and the World Wide Web.

I am the caregiver for livestock, plants and children.

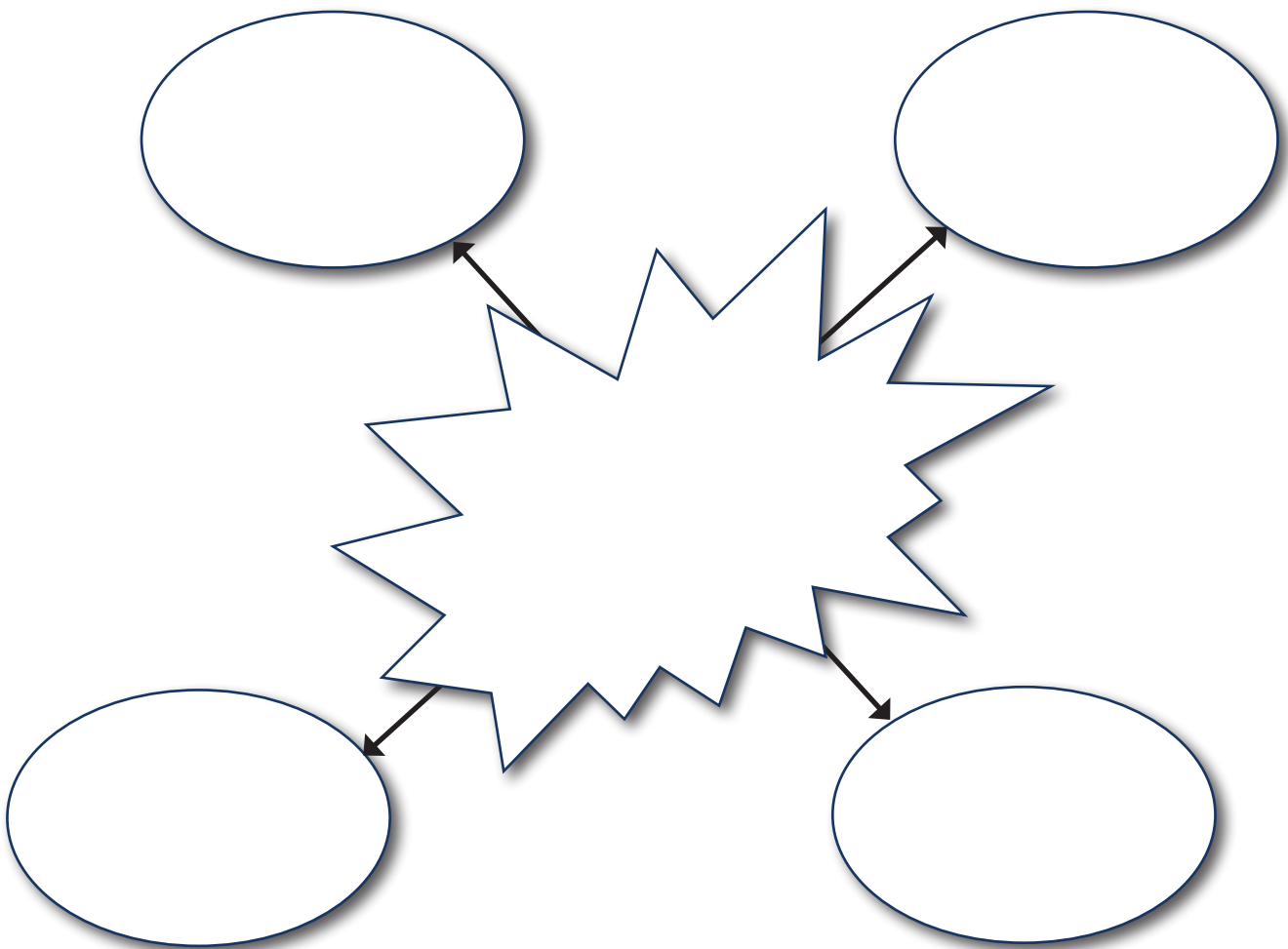
I am a friend, an ear to listen and a shoulder to cry on.

I am a smile to share with others.

Describing Me

Directions:

Complete the chart below by placing your name in the center design. In each of the smaller surrounding circles, write a word that makes you unique. Continue the web design by further describing these traits and how they are important to you.



I am _____; I am not _____.