

Getting-to-Know-You Interest Inventories

Scavenger Hunts

This is a wonderful icebreaker any time during the first week of school. It's critical to stick to your predetermined time limit for this activity because with the excitement this activity generates, it will be tempting to let it continue.

Ask students to raise their hands if they have all 15 questions answered. If no one raises a hand, keep going (14, 13, 12) until you can collect a paper with the most completed answers. Review the sheet with the class. Talk to each of the students whose name is listed under each category. Verify that they fit the given category. If they do not, deduct one point from the total. Continue until a winner is established.

Variations:

- ✱ Have students work in pairs or small groups.
- ✱ Allow students to work on the scavenger hunt during the first week of school.
- ✱ Encourage students to find a different classmate for each answer.
- ✱ Invite students to make up their own scavenger hunts.

Classmate Interviews

This icebreaker allows students to get to know each other better. Each student gets a chance to be both a star reporter and a sought-after celebrity. When you collect and read the papers, you will learn a lot about each of your students.

Distribute copies of the classmate interview form to each student. Divide students into pairs. For this activity, 20 minutes works best. Give each student 10 minutes to interview their partner, switching roles after the first 10 minutes so they each get a chance to ask and answer questions.

As a class, create a graph that will help students see that they have many things in common. After you have read these papers, you may wish to add them to a classroom time capsule so students can see how their interests have changed, or not, over the course of the school year.





Scavenger Hunt: Classmates Part I



Find a classmate who fits each of the following categories. Record each name on the lines provided. Try not to use the same person more than twice. When you have finished, circle each category that also applies to you.

1. Who has a birthday in September? _____
2. Who has green eyes? _____
3. Who walks to school every day? _____
4. Who lives within two blocks of school? _____
5. Who does not have a middle name? _____
6. Who is new in the school this year? _____
7. Who went to camp this summer? _____
8. Who knows how to bake a cake? _____
9. Who has ridden a horse? _____
10. Whose favorite color is purple? _____
11. Whose first name starts with *M*? _____
12. Whose family has a blue car? _____
13. Who is left-handed? _____
14. Who can play the piano? _____
15. Who has more brothers than sisters? _____

Name _____

Date _____



Scavenger Hunt: Classmates Part II



Find a classmate who fits each of the following categories. Record each name and follow-up answer on the lines provided. Try not to use the same person more than twice. When you have finished, circle the number of each category that also applies to you.

1. **Loves to read.** Name: _____
Favorite book: _____
2. **Has a younger brother.** Name: _____
Brother's name: _____
3. **Has two older sisters.** Name: _____
Sisters' names: _____
4. **Has tried asparagus.** Name: _____
Likes it? _____
5. **Speaks a foreign language.** Name: _____
What language? _____
6. **Can play a musical instrument.** Name: _____
What instrument? _____
7. **Has a birthday in January.** Name: _____
What date? _____
8. **Plays on a sports team.** Name: _____
What sport? _____
9. **Owns more than two pets.** Name: _____
What are they? _____
10. **Has lived in another state.** Name: _____
Which state? _____
11. **Has two favorite school subjects.** Name: _____
Favorite subjects: _____
12. **Has a magazine subscription.** Name: _____
What magazine? _____
13. **Likes ice cream.** Name: _____
Favorite flavor: _____
14. **Has been to a zoo.** Name: _____
Favorite animal: _____



Scavenger Hunt: School



To learn more about your school, find an answer to each of the following categories.
Record each answer on the lines provided.

1. **What is the mailing address of the school?** _____

2. **When was the school built?** _____
3. **What is the highest room number in the school?** _____
4. **How many windows are in the library?** _____
5. **How many days can you keep a book that you've checked out of the library?** _____
6. **What else can you find in the library besides books?** _____
7. **What vegetables are being served in the cafeteria this week?** _____

8. **How many tables are in the cafeteria?** _____
9. **How many trees are on the school grounds?** _____
10. **How many drinking fountains are at the school?** _____
11. **How many elevators are in the school?** _____
12. **What can you find that is painted blue?** _____
13. **What teacher has been at the school the longest?** _____
14. **What teacher's last name starts with a letter closest to the end of the alphabet?** _____
15. **How many exit signs can you find?** _____

Classmate Interview

Take turns interviewing and being interviewed by your partner.
You may be surprised with the things you have in common.

Name of person interviewed: _____

1. If you could be anything in the world when you grow up, what would you be? Why? _____

2. What are your hobbies? _____
3. What kinds of activities do you like to do with friends? _____

4. What kinds of activities do you like to do by yourself? _____

5. What is your favorite sport to watch? _____
6. What is your favorite sport to play? _____
7. What is your favorite book of all time? _____
8. If you could be any animal, which one would you choose? Why? _____

9. If you could be like any one great person, whom would you choose? Why? _____

10. If you were given \$1,000, what would you do with it? _____

What else would you like to know about your partner? Think of one last question to ask.



Question: _____

Answer: _____

