

Multiculturalism and national identities



11-15

45 m

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Reflect and raise self-awareness about student's identity
- Learn how to differentiate between the concepts of multiculturalism and national identity.
- Learn how to identify challenging situations and suggested recommendations to support diverse cultural identities in school

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Video projector
- Paper, flipchart sheets
- Crayons
- Worksheets

LEARNING SCENARIO AND ACTIVITIES PROPOSED

1) Introduction (20 minutes)

Students are asked to follow the video [“Introduction to Multicultural Identity” from Guga Tosi YouTube Channel](#).

The teacher explains that the classroom is a small sample of the wider population and distributes a question worksheet to the students. Then the teacher tells the students to walk around the room and ask each other the questions on the worksheet. If someone satisfies the requirement, then they write their name down next to that question, and so on. Inform students that they should aim to find a different person for each question (Where were you born? /Where were your parents born? /What cultures do you identify

with? /Who are your cultural heroes?/ Stereotypes about your nationality or other questions you consider appropriate).

Discuss the student's thoughts on what they discovered during the activity about diversity. Explain that if we are to promote cultural diversity, we must smash all forms of stereotypes.

There could be an additional discussion about the sense of belonging to the EU, "Do you feel European? What does it mean? Why do you not feel European?" and talk about freedom of movement, which is a big part of European identity.

2) Practice (15 minutes)

A second video is proposed: "[What is National Identity?-Video for international students](#)" from GP – National Identity YouTube Channel.

Brainstorming about what is multiculturalism and national identity and if they can coexist. A conceptual map about multiculturalism vs national identity is created on a flipchart sheet. Students, divided into small groups, create a poster about the negative aspects of stereotypes.

3) Production (10 minutes)

Explain that, as students, they belong to many different groups at once. Ask students to write a list of organizations they are members of (e.g., their school soccer team, different clubs, their local church/synagogue/mosque, the scouts). Explain that being a member of one group does not diminish their membership in another. They are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they enrich us and make us better, making us unique. Share the list with other colleagues.

EXPECTED DIFFICULTIES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Some students may feel ashamed of their nationality, about being different, precisely because of stereotypes, and hide the truth about them. Discussing the advantages of coming from multicultural backgrounds can make them open up.

ASSESSMENT

- Ask to write a short essay on what you would choose for you: one culture or more.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Modood, T. (2007, May 16). "Multiculturalism, citizenship and national identity". Open Democracy. https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/multiculturalism_4627jsp/