



GRADE
3, 4, 5

TIME
10 minutes

WAYFINDER CORE SKILL
Collaboration

ACTIVITY

Differences Make All the Difference

MATERIALS

N/A

INTRO

Students will line up in various orders and make observations about their differences.

Directions

- + Invite students to line up in order of height from tallest to shortest.
- + **Ask:**
 - + What is an advantage to being the tallest person in our class?
 - + What is an advantage of being the shortest person in our class?
 - + What is an advantage of being somewhere in between?
- + Invite students to line up in order of hair length from shortest to longest.
- + **Ask:**
 - + What are some advantages to having long hair?
 - + What are some advantages to having short hair?
- + Invite students to line up in order of birthday from youngest to oldest.
- + **Ask:**
 - + What are some advantages of having a birthday in the beginning of our school year or being an older student in a class?
 - + What are some advantages of having a birthday at the end of the school year or being a younger student in our class?

Discussion Questions

- + What did you notice in this activity?
- + What's helpful about having differences in our classroom?
- + What are some advantages of being a diverse group of individuals?
- + What would it be like if there was no diversity in thinking, being, or appearance?

Talking Points

- + There are some differences that are easy to see, like our height or hair. Other differences are impossible to see, like our birthdays, thoughts, or values.
- + Our classroom is so much more interesting and complex because we are all different. We are all more knowledgeable because of the diversity of thoughts, opinions, and ideas that we all bring to our classroom.



GRADE
4th Grade

TIME
20 minutes

WAYFINDER CORE SKILL
Collaboration

LESSON

Escape the Cave

How can we work together to reach a common goal?

PREP	Set up a line on the floor
MATERIALS	Tape or rope, blank pieces of paper for solving challenges
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Students will be able to reflect on how they contributed to achieving a common goal.+ Students will be able to articulate the importance of working together.
THE WHY	Why is it important to care for things in the classroom? It is important to care for things in the classroom so that after we get to enjoy it, others get to enjoy it too!

Step 1

INTRODUCTION

1 min

Students will be introduced to the concept of escape rooms.

Talking points

- + Who has heard of an escape room? What is it?
- + An escape room is an adventurous game in which participants are “locked” in a themed room and have to solve riddles and puzzles to find their way out.
- + We are going to create an escape room in our classroom today. You will be given a series of challenges to complete as a class.

Step 2

ESCAPE THE CAVE!

14 min

Students will work together to solve a series of challenges to escape the cave.

Directions

- + Set the scene for the series of challenges. Feel free to get into character however you see fit to sell this adventure to your students.
- + Say *“You are on a jungle exploration, and you discover a cave. You see a brilliant light shining deep in the cave and walk in to investigate the source. As you are approaching the light, you hear a rumbling and several boulders roll out of place blocking the way you entered. You realize the cave is boobytrapped! You must work together as a class to solve challenges to roll the boulders back and escape the cave.”*

Educator Tip! You can use the scenario outlined here or come up with your own that you think will land best with your students or relate to a unit you are teaching.

- + Say, *“You are in total darkness, with a match and a matchbox. Nearby you have three objects: a candle, an oil lamp, and a log of firewood. Which thing do you light first?”*
 - + Answer: the match.



- + When students come to a consensus on the correct answer, say *"You're one step closer to escape now that you can see the way! In front of the first big boulder, you can now see a large crack on the ground. To move the boulder, everyone in the class must touch the crack at the exact same time"*.
- + Mark a line on the floor using tape or a piece of rope. Have students stand on either side of the rope about a foot away from it facing each other.
- + Encourage students to take time to plan.

Educator Tip! This is harder than it sounds! Be ready to judge to determine if the class was successful on each attempt.

- + Teaching this virtually, instead of touching the crack challenge, you can challenge students to jump in unison in front of their cameras.
- + Once students are successful, with the task, say, *"The first boulder rolled out of the way! You can see the next boulder blocking your path, and there is a riddle written on it! You must solve the riddle to move the next boulder."*
 - + Riddle: There are five bats named Jose, Malachi, Charlie, Rachel and Sara. Jose is taller than Malachi. Charli is taller than Malachi. Sara is taller than Jose. Rachel is shorter than Charli and taller than Sara. Put all the bats in order of their height from tallest to shortest.
 - + Answer: Charli, Rachel, Sara, Jose and Malachi
- + When the students come to a consensus on the correct answer, say, *"The second boulder rolled out of the way! You start to walk toward the next boulder but are blocked by snakes! The trick to get the snakes to sleep is to sing to them. Choose a song and then everyone needs to whisper-sing it in unison to sneak past the snakes!"*
- + Once the class sings a song say, *"Past the snakes you reach the final boulder! You can see light around the edges and you know your freedom is on the other side! The boulder requires a number that represents your names to move aside. You have to add up the total number of letters in the whole class's first and last names and then write that number on the board!"*
- + Once students have added up the total number of letters in their first and last names and written it on the board, congratulate them on successfully escaping the cave!

Step 3

DEBRIEF + WRAP-UP

3 min

Students will reflect on their class escape the room challenge.

Discussion Questions

- + What skills did you need to solve the challenges?
- + Whose voices were heard? Why?
- + What was challenging about this activity?
- + What did you learn from this challenge?
- + How did you work together to solve the challenge?
- + How might your approach change if you were working against each other versus all together?
- + Why is collaboration or working together important in this classroom?

Close by inviting each student sharing one word to describe their experience with the challenge.