

SCHOOL KIT #1: OUR COLOURFUL WORLD



open minds

School kits to help the next generation
embrace diversity

Our Colourful World

Children are our future. What we teach them at home and at school helps build the foundation for their future – and the world's. Almost 70%¹ of parents believe tolerance and respect to be the most important qualities that a child can learn at home, but studies show that younger generations are losing faith towards other people.

This lack of faith, or mistrust, builds borders between people and countries. Once these walls are up, meeting and understanding different people and different cultures becomes harder and harder, and as a result, we start seeing each other – and the world – in stereotypes.

Our Colourful World is a simple activity that helps tackle this. The activity explains stereotypes and demonstrate how they are used – even unintentionally. The goal of the exercise is to show that our world is diverse and colourful, that places can't be put into boxes and that most of us have much more in common with people from other countries than we would ever have thought.

Change our beliefs

Nobody sets out to stereotype, but it's easy to do unintentionally. Small signals we send – microaggressions – can create prejudice and build barriers between people and cultures. It's very important to make clear that this isn't necessarily anyone's fault – we all receive and pass on stereotypes without meaning to. The crucial thing is to be able to recognise that what we believe to be true, sometimes isn't!

This activity helps demonstrates precisely this: stereotyping is easy – but it's also easy to challenge these stereotypes and change our behaviour. Children are particularly open to new ways of thinking, which is why it's so important to reach them at an early.

We are not born racist, prejudiced and hateful. We are born curious, tolerant and open-minded! The sooner we start to teach children about these issues the sooner they are able to embrace diversity!

1 momondo Value of Travelling survey 20v6

CISV and momondo share a mutual interest in creating more tolerance between people and cultures across the world. We have a vision of an open world, where differences are a source of inspiration, not prejudice

How it works

Make sure that your class understand what a stereotype is before you begin. A simple definition is: a stereotype is putting a group of people (or a place) under the same umbrella, e.g. 'all English people drink tea', or 'it never rains in Australia'.

There is only one right answer in this activity: where the country is. All the other questions are there to prompt the same discussion: people from country X don't all look the same way, dress the same way or eat the same thing! Whatever stereotypes we might have, are based on presumptions or have been passed on by family, friends or media.

At the end of the activity, it's a good idea to talk about the stereotypes from the first question; where did they come from? Why? How do the children feel now?

The activity has a suggested time of about 60 minutes, but the discussion can go on for as long as you want.

The activity is easy to set up. Just follow the steps below:

1. Split your class up into 4 to 7 groups and give each group two copies of the same continent
2. Have the group choose a country within the continent write it on the sheet
3. Split each of the groups into two smaller groups, e.g. group A and B. Group A sits at a table and group B sits at a computer
4. Each group must now mark where they think the country is and then go through the questions. Group A, at the table, must brainstorm, but Group B, at the computer, can use the computer to try to find the answers (of course both groups can brainstorm if there is no access to a computer)
5. Group A and B now go through the questions (group A brainstorm and group B research online)
6. After 20 minutes, group A and B sit back down together, compare their answers and talk about the differences

If you'd like, you can do a test run with the whole class first to make sure everyone understands what to do.

Suggested discussion questions

1. How do you feel about what you wrote now that the activity is over?
2. Do we see more stereotypes in countries far away from us than countries next door?
3. Why do you think we think this way about people from other countries?
4. Can you name more countries in the continent?
5. Can you name any physical features in the country/continent (e.g. the Nile, the Alps)

Our colourful world !

Hang the maps on the classroom walls to remind the class that our world is big, beautiful and full of amazing differences!



About Open Minds

Open Minds is an educational programme by momondo, an inspirational travel search site. In collaboration with CISV International, a global non-profit organisation dedicated to educating and inspiring action for peace, schools and teachers, we have developed activities that will help children understand the importance of mutual respect and openness.

The activities are aimed at children aged 10 to 15, as they are still open to new concepts and ideas, but old enough to be able to fully comprehend the extent and importance of the issues addressed.

We started the collaboration with CISV because we share a vision of an open world, where our differences are a source of inspiration, and where intercultural meetings create more understanding in the world.

For more information, please visit letsopenourworld.com.

momondo

momondo is a inspirational travel search site comparing billions of cheap flights, hotels and car hire deals, giving users complete price transparency across the market. We believe that everyone should be able to travel the world because we know that crossing borders and travelling makes us more open-minded and tolerant.

We are a purpose driven company that kick-started a global conversation about the importance of breaking down boundaries with The DNA Journey, a short non-fiction film seen more than 300 million times. Through our purpose platform, Let's Open Our World, we're able to continue the conversation, engaging with people who share a common vision of an open world and encouraging the pursuit of peace through curiosity, open-mindedness and tolerance.

CISV

Founded over 60 years ago, CISV International is a global organisation with member associations in 70 countries around the world. Together, they are dedicated to educating and inspiring for peace through building inter-cultural friendship, cooperation and understanding. CISV offers an exciting blend of seven fun, non-formal peace education 'learning by doing' programmes, beginning with their original and unique Village programmes for 11-year-olds.

By educating the next generation and through building intercultural friendships based on cooperation and understanding, CISV aims to help children and youth develop the skills they need to become informed, responsible and active global citizens, able to make a positive difference in their communities and the world.