

# PENGUINS AND TURKEYS

## A Math - Diversity Lesson

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### PROCEDURE:

1. Begin the class with a brief discussion on cultural differences and beliefs. Explain to the class that though there are many differences of which to be proud, there are also many more likenesses than we are usually aware of.

- A. Some people of different cultures or backgrounds never take time to learn about or understand other cultures.

- B. The diversity of our own country should be a tremendous source of pride rather than a cause of violence.

2. Begin this game with very vague directions. Say, “ We are going to play a game called Penguins and Turkeys. I will tell you if by pointing at you or tapping you on the shoulder if you are a Penguin or a Turkey. After you find out which group you belong to, all penguins stand in the front corner of the room and all turkeys stand in the back corner of the room.”

The teacher will pick a characteristic that all the penguins have in common but all the turkeys do not. For example, all the penguins may have on blue jeans while all the turkeys do not. Another example might be eyeglasses/ no eyeglasses. Another example might be earrings/no earrings or writing on the shirt/ no writing on the shirt. After a few times through, it is a good idea to pick two or three characteristics and combine them. For example, all penguins must have glasses AND blue jeans. With each characteristic change, the group dynamic also changes. After the groups have been formed, allow the students to determine what characteristic they have in common that placed them in that particular group. It becomes very clear that we as human beings have much more in common than we thought in midst of vast diversity.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- A. How did the activity relate to the world you live in?
  - B. In what ways are people of different cultures alike?  
(Brainstorm)
  - C. In what ways are people of different cultures not alike?  
(Brainstorm)
4. I combine this lesson with a math lesson on similar and congruent shapes in Geometry. I try to get the students to look at the similarities between two triangles, rectangles, or other geometric shapes to help them determine what the shape is.

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If you are an educator, or work in schools and have a lesson that helps teach the skills of conflict resolution education to students and would be willing to share that lesson with other educators, please e-mail a copy of it to Jennifer Batton, the Director of Education Programs at the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management at: [Jennifer.Batton@cdr.state.oh.us](mailto:Jennifer.Batton@cdr.state.oh.us) or you mail it to the Commission at: OCDRCM, 77 S. High St., 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108.