



## Know Your Classmates™



**Mini Fact:**  
Know Your Classmates Day is Friday, Oct. 26.



October is National Bullying Prevention Month. The Mini Page talked with experts at Beyond Differences, an organization that works to stop bullying before it happens, about a program called Know Your Classmates™.

Although Know Your Classmates is a program for middle schoolers, its messages are important for elementary students to learn, too.

### What is social isolation?

Some kids feel left out or invisible when they're at school. They might feel lonely and different from everyone else. This is called **social isolation**.



When you think about it, we're *all* different from each other!

#### What makes you, you?

- Your family's traditions \_\_\_\_\_
- Your race \_\_\_\_\_
- Your gender \_\_\_\_\_
- The things you like to do \_\_\_\_\_
- Your religion \_\_\_\_\_
- What else? \_\_\_\_\_

If you make a list of these and other parts of your **identity**, then compare it to another student's, they might be very different. Or you might have a lot in common. But instead of being afraid of or mean to people who seem different, we can get to know them and learn about their backgrounds and traditions.

### Who belongs? Who doesn't?

Have you ever been left out? How did that make you feel? The Know Your Classmates program asks kids to think about what it means to "belong."

#### For example:

- Would you rather be part of the "in" group or be an outsider?
- Do you go along with others who exclude certain classmates?
- How would you feel after a week, a month or a whole school year of being isolated from others in your class?

### What are stereotypes?

A **stereotype** is an idea that people have about a group or thing that may not be true. For example, some people think all kids with Asian ancestors are really smart.



But sometimes stereotypes are hurtful. Sometimes people judge others unfairly based on race, gender or other characteristics before they even know the person. These judgments are called **biases**.

- Do you think you've ever been stereotyped by others? Were the stereotypes positive or negative?
- Do you have biases against certain people or groups?
- How can you overcome your biases?

### Our American society

You have probably already learned that some families have more money than others. Some people worship in a church, others in a mosque, and some not at all. Some kids in your school may have dark skin, or eyes shaped differently than yours.

In the United States, we have a **pluralistic** (pler-al-IS-tic) society, where people from many different backgrounds live among one another. For some people, this causes conflicts.

But people who have different identities can also share **values**, or beliefs, such as equality and freedom.

- What positive or negative experiences have you and your family had living in your community?
- Do some of those experiences make you feel excluded? Do others make you feel included?
- Why should we talk about those experiences with other people? How can we learn from them?

### Resources



#### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPlonely](http://bit.ly/MPlonely)
- [beyondDifferences.org](http://beyondDifferences.org)

#### At the library:

- "The Thing About Luck" by Cynthia Kadohata

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## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of knowing your classmates are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- BELONG, BIAS,
- BULLYING, CLASSMATES,
- DIFFERENT, GENDER,
- IDENTITY, ISOLATION,
- KNOW, LEARN, LONELY,
- PLURALISTIC, RACE,
- RELIGION, SOCIAL,
- STEREOTYPE,
- TRADITION, VALUES.

R K I S O L A T I O N M S S H  
 T R G N O L E B S T G T E Y Y  
 N E N B X Z L E R N E T R T L  
 E L R I M U U A I R A W E I E  
 R I A A A L D Y E M R O D T N  
 E G E S A I L O S A P N N N O  
 F I L V T L T S C K Y K E E L  
 F O O I U Y A E C W Q V G D V  
 I N O B P L U R A L I S T I C  
 D N Y E C E A F X S O C I A L

## Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and Alpha Betty are exploring a cave. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



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- man in the moon
- hamburger
- mushroom
- butterfly
- elephant
- lima bean
- carrot
- number 6
- word MINI
- whale
- snake
- snail
- fish
- heart
- old man's face

### Mini Jokes



**Anita:** How do you catch a whole school of fish?  
**Lee:** With bookworms!

### Eco Note



We're still in hurricane season. Hurricanes are the most violent storms on Earth. They form near the equator over warm waters of the Atlantic or eastern Pacific Oceans. When the wind speeds reach 74 mph, the storm is officially a hurricane. These storms are at least 50,000 feet high and around 125 miles across. The eye is around 5 to 30 miles wide.

adapted from [climatekids.nasa.gov](http://climatekids.nasa.gov)

### Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Laura Talmus and Sally Kuhlman of Beyond Differences for help with this issue.

**Teachers:** For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bit.ly/MPstandards](http://bit.ly/MPstandards). And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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