



Who in the World...?

Life Skills:

Self Responsibility, Communication

What to Do:

Use pictures from magazines and newspapers to identify individuals who are currently influencing world events

Measuring Success:

Youths will improve their ability to identify influential individuals and gain an understanding of why doing so is important.

Audience:

4th – 12th grades

Time Involved:

20 - 40 minutes (plus preparation time)

Group Size:

5 - 30

Preparation and Materials

- Gather pictures or photographs of individuals (or groups) currently in the news. Examples could include political figures, religious representatives, sports figures, singers, actors, etc. (Each person should currently be involved in something happening in another country.)
- Place photos on a poster or on the wall with a number by each one.
- Develop a matching game by listing the names of each individual on a sheet with a blank beside each one so youths can list the number of the photo by the correct name.

Introduction

How does something that happens on the other side of the world affect you? (examples: unstable foreign stock markets, wars, natural disasters) It's important to know what is going on around the world so you have a better understanding of what is happening in your life, your community and your country. Let's see how well you recognize some of the individuals who impact our lives.

The Activity

(Explain the matching game. Ask youths to complete the activity individually. Give them enough time to complete the matches.)

Reflect/Discuss

Share What You Did

How many of you were able to identify all of the individuals? (*Share correct answers or ask youths to share their answers.*)

Tell What's Important

Why did you know the people you did? (possible answers: current news events, ancestors from that country, visited the country, etc.) Do we pay closer attention to certain areas of the world if we feel a personal connection there?

Generalize to Your Life

Do we know much about these individuals? How do we get our information? Is it biased information? Do these pictures influence your opinion of the person and his/her views? Why? Do you pay closer attention to individuals who are having a positive impact or a negative impact? Why?

Apply What You Learned

Is it important to be able to identify these individuals? Why?

- They influence U.S. policies, unemployment, economy, and other parts of our lives.
- They may be involved in: wars/military action, drug trafficking, peace initiatives, trade agreements, natural disaster relief, human rights issues.
- It also increases our understanding of other cultures and countries.

(Have each young person collect one or two pictures during the week and bring them to the next meeting so other youths can identify them.)

More Challenges

Matching Game

- List the numbers with a blank line beside each one and ask youths to write the names of the individuals.
- Have youths add the name of the country where the individuals are from.
- Have youths research the issues the individuals are involved in.
- Have youths research an individual and role-play a situation involving that individual.