

Project Skills:

- Identifying and respecting individual differences in people.

Life Skills:

- Accepting differences

Academic Standard:

This activity complements this academic standard:

- E.12.2 Explain how such factors as physical endowment and capabilities, family, gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, attitudes, beliefs, work, and motivation contribute to individual identity and development.

Grade Levels: 6-12

Time: 60 minutes

Supplies Needed:

People at Large Activity

- Complete set of People at Large cards

Me Bag Activity

- 1 brown paper bag per participant
- Glue
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers/crayons
- Small pieces of paper
- White board/chalk board /poster paper

Do Ahead:

People at Large Activity

- Make sure you have all of the picture and description cards.

Me Bag

- Cut up small pieces of paper.

BACKGROUND

I'm sure you have heard people say, "Never judge a book by its cover." Well, it's true about people, too! Youth begin to form ideas about themselves and other people at a very young age. Early on youth are exposed to television, books, magazines, photographs, and interactions with people where they learn how others view people like themselves. Uncomfortable reactions can alert youth to the negative significance some people put on differences. In other words, the differences in eye or skin color can simply become a category of human variation — or those differences can take on a particular negative significance.

In youth development we are surrounded by opportunities to teach diversity every day, for example: camp counselor training, ambassador training, after school education, or creating welcoming environments for our community clubs. Helping youth explore, identify and celebrate the unique qualities of others is an important part of growing up and will help them for the rest of their lives.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: People at Large

Hold up one of the People at Large cards. Ask the youth: "What do you know about this person?" You may hear answers like: pretty, movie star, blonde, politician, tall – things they can tell by looking at the picture or things they might have read in a magazine or heard on TV.

When there are no more responses, turn the card over and give the youth some real or additional facts that they may not know about the celebrity, such as, plays the piano, speaks seven languages, wrote a book, has 15 brothers and sisters, or was born in Russia.

Go through all of the cards, first showing the photo, then sharing additional information when they tell all that they know about each person.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What surprised you most about the people we discussed?
- What things can you tell by looking at a person?
- What things can't you tell by looking at a person?
- How would you have known details about these people by just looking at the pictures?

Apply:

- How are you similar to these people? How are you different from these people?
- If someone described a person to you, how would you know who that person was?

Activity: Me Bag

Give each youth a brown paper bag and a marker or crayon. Ask them to write on one side of the bag all the things that an acquaintance might think about them just by looking at them. This should be done so others cannot see their lists. When everyone is done, hand out several small strips of paper to each person. On these slips, tell them, "Write down some things that others may not know about you unless they talk to you or get to know you better. As you finish your slips, place them inside the bag." (Remind youth only to write down things that they feel comfortable sharing with the group.)

Sources:**People at Large Activity**

- Created by Heather Schmitz, 4-H Youth Development Agent, UW-Extension, Rusk County.

Me Bag Activity

- Skuza, J., Russo, J., Gates, E., and Kawase, M. *Urban Youth Lead: Becoming the Authors of Their Lives*, pp. 21-22, Regents of the University of Minnesota, 2006.

When everyone is finished, line up the bags in a row with the blank side of the bag facing away from the youth. Give each youth a different bag and have them read the slips of paper inside the bag. Ask them if they are able to figure out who the person is from the information inside the bag. Once they have guessed, have them turn the bag around and read what is on the outside of the bag. Ask them again if they know whose bag it is. Return the bags to their owners and have each youth share their bag with the group.

Then one by one in the group, ask the youth: What strengths does this person have? What does this person contribute to the group? What have you learned about this person that you did not know before? What might be a good career for this person?

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- What are some things that we have in common with each other?
- What things can you tell about the person from looking at the outside of the bag?
- What things can't you tell about the person from looking at the outside of the bag?
- What makes you unique to the group?
- What things were you surprised about that you learned from the group?

Apply:

- Why is it useful to know how other people view you?
- From now on, how will you learn about a new person?

ENHANCE/SIMPLIFY**Enhance:**

Challenge youth to question the assumptions or prejudices that exist in our world today, e.g.: All people from Afghanistan are involved with the Taliban. Ask: "Why do you think these assumptions exist? What could you do to stop assumptions like this from getting started?"

Simplify:

Use one card as an example to show the youth how the activity works. Eliminate the People at Large activity and just focus on the Me Bag activity.

HELPFUL HINTS**People at Large:**

- It works a lot easier if you laminate the picture card and the description card together. This way you can be showing the youth the picture and you can be reading the information on the back.

Me Bag:

- Don't rush through this activity. Make sure you leave enough time for discussion. If you need more time you can take it out of the People at Large activity or take that activity out completely.
- If you have a large group place time limits: 5 min for writing on the outside of the bag, 5 minutes for filling out the slips, 5 min to read the slips, 5 min to read the outside of the bag. This allows you to have more time for the reflect and apply questions.

ADDITIONAL WEB LINKS

- The Internet Movie Database contains biographies on most entertainment stars: <http://www.imdb.com>.

NOTE TO FACILITATORS

- Be prepared to handle sensitive topics including: ethnic diversity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, income level, race, color, national origin, gender, age, political beliefs, marital status, or family status.
- Make sure to keep the discussion on track and not to single out any participant.

- If you are working with younger youth be aware that you may need to explain things more clearly.

Reviewed by Wisconsin 4-H Curriculum Team: January 28, 2011



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JULIA ROBERTS



BRAD PITT



LINDSAY LOHAN



GEORGE CLOONEY



JENNIFER LOPEZ



MICHAEL JACKSON



PARIS HILTON



GEORGE W. BUSH



OPRAH



OSAMA BIN LADEN



MILEY CYRUS



WILL FERRELL



JESSICA SIMPSON



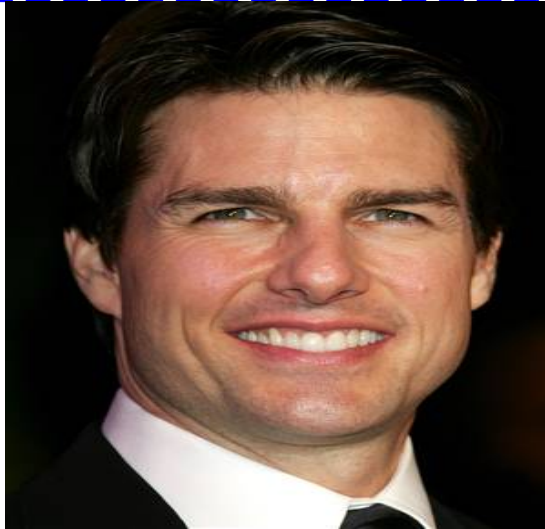
ANGELINA JOLIE



BRETT FAVRE



BRITNEY SPEARS



TOM CRUISE



CAMERON DIAZ



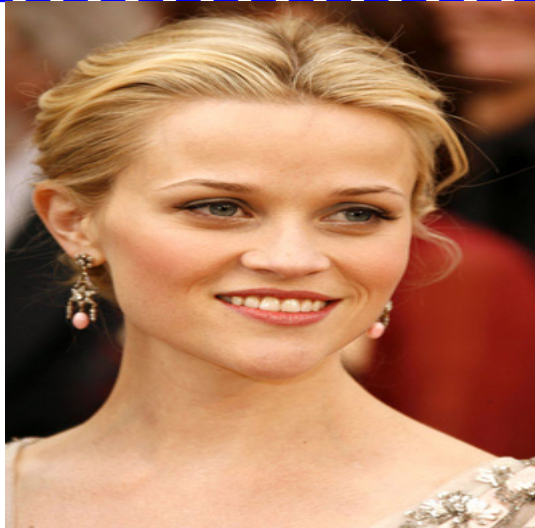
JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE



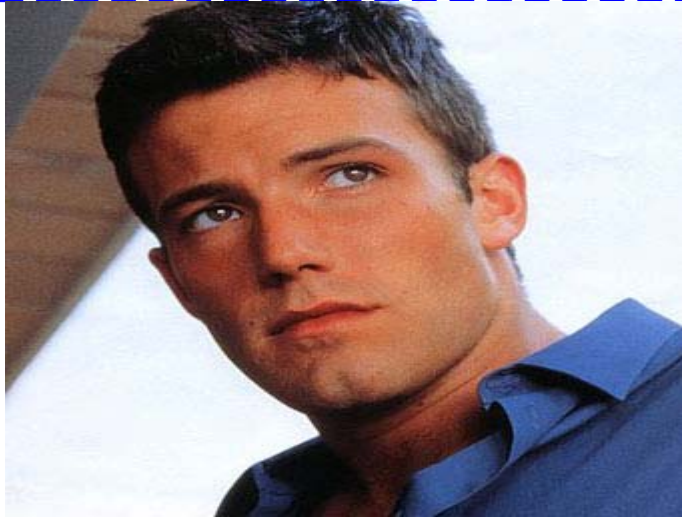
MANDY MOORE



JOHNNY DEPP



REESE WITHERSPOON



BEN AFFLECK



ANNE HATHAWAY



TIGER WOODS



SCARLETT JOHANSSON

JULIA ROBERTS

- Wanted to be a veterinarian when she was growing up.
- Plays the clarinet.
- Lies on her back to have her make up applied.
- Is Irish.
- Her real hair color is dark blond.
- She drives a Toyota Prius.
- She has three children.
- She is an accomplished equestrienne.
- She loves to wear hats.

BRAD PITT

- He was on the high school debate team.
- He was named “best dressed” in high school class.
- He left college two credits shy of graduating.
- His nickname is Pittler.
- He started smoking in 6th grade.
- He collects metal art pieces and furniture.
- He drives a Toyota Hybrid.
- He hates spiders and sharks.
- His favorite cereal is Frosted Flakes.
- His favorite candy is Twizzlers.

LINDSAY LOHAN

- She is allergic to blueberries.
- Her idol is Marilyn Monroe.
- Her middle name is Dee.
- She had her appendix removed.
- She was once saved by her brothers from drowning.
- She started modeling at age 3.
- She was a straight A student in high school.

GEORGE CLOONEY

- He tried out for the Cincinnati Reds Baseball Team.
- He owned a pet pig named Max.
- His favorite TV show is South Park.
- He once lived in a closet.
- He has had numerous spine surgeries.
- He owns a villa in Italy.
- He suffered from Bell's Palsy as a child.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

- Her nicknames are “La Guitarra” and “The Supernova”.
- She got her start dancing in Janet Jackson videos.
- She opened a Cuban restaurant called Madre’s
- She does not drink alcohol.
- She struggles to converse in Spanish.
- She owns three homes.
- She is the step mom of three children.
- Her biggest fears are dying and being alone.

MICHAEL JACKSON

- He has been married twice.
- He use to be a Jehovah's Witness.
- He had lupus as a child.
- His favorite book is Peter Pan.
- Macaulay Culkin is his children's godfather.

PARIS HILTON

- Her nickname is Princess.
- She has had numerous plastic surgeries to change the way she looks.
- She doesn't like her big feet.
- She started her own record label.
- She has three Pomeranians and two Chihuahuas.
- Her favorite sport is golf.
- She taught herself how to play the guitar.
- She has ADD.
- She likes to play poker.

GEORGE W BUSH

- He has dyslexia.
- He graduated from Harvard and Yale with a C average.
- He has been arrested three times.
- He was the owner and President of the Texas Rangers Baseball Team.
- He has twin daughters.
- His secret service name is “Trailblazer”.
- He collects autographed baseball cards.
- His favorite sport is golf.
- His favorite movie is Field of Dreams
- He has an MBA.

OPRAH

- She graduated from Tennessee State University.
- She is the first woman to own and produce her own talk show.
- She had a baby at 14 who died.
- She got a bill passed by Congress aimed at stopping child abuse.
- She skipped Kindergarten and was put into the 3rd grade.
- She was the first African American woman to become a billionaire.
- She was crowned Miss Black Tennessee.

OSAMA BIN LADEN

- His nickname is “The Emir”.
- He is missing some of his toes.
- He is worth over \$300 million dollars.
- He is a kidney patient and on dialysis.
- He was born and raised in Saudi Arabia not Afghanistan.
- He owns his families construction company.
- He has 51 siblings.
- He attended King Abdul Aziz University and studies management and economics.
- He was disowned from his family and expelled from Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

MILEY CYRUS

- She likes cheerleading.
- She has written over 100 songs.
- Her favorite food is Chinese.
- Her favorite movie is Steel Magnolias.
- Her favorite hobby is shopping.
- She has three dogs.

WILL FERRELL

- He graduated from the USC with a degree in sports information.
- He completed the Boston and the New York Marathon.
- His favorite film is Patton.
- He is a member of an adult soccer league.
- He has three dogs.
- He spends every summer in Sweden.
- He has two sons.
- He is a member of the Delta Tau Delta international fraternity.

JESSICA SIMPSON

- She drives a Mercedes Benz SL500.
- Her favorite movie is Pretty Woman.
- She loves hot pink roses.
- She made her first album at 14 years old.
- She dropped out of high school.
- She is Canadian / American.
- She is allergic to cheese, wheat, coffee, chocolate, tomatoes, corn, and hot peppers.
- She is related to Al Gore.
- She has a dog named Daisy.

ANGELINA JOLIE

- She was a professional model.
- She collects knives as a hobby.
- She wanted to be a funeral director when she was growing up.
- She graduated from high school at age 16.
- She was appointed Good Will Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- She use to have a pet rat snake.
- She is an honoree citizen of Cambodia.
- She holds a private pilot certificate with an airplane, single engine land rating.
- She is left handed.

BRETT FAVRE

- He also plays baseball.
- Besides quarterback he played strong safety and he was a punter in high school.
- He graduated from Southern Mississippi State University.
- He is missing 30 inches of his small intestine.
- He started the Brett Favre Forward Foundation to raise money for numerous charities.
- He wrote and published a cook book.
- He has two daughters
- His favorite singer is Tim McGraw.

BRITNEY SPEARS

- She was a gymnast and a basketball player in high school.
- She has written two books about herself.
- She was homecoming queen.
- Her idol is Bjork.
- She owns a restaurant in New York City called Nyla
- She likes to wear T-Shirts with slogans on them.
- She once worked in a novelty shop and as an aerobics instructor.
- She got her start on the Mickey Mouse Club.

TOM CRUISE

- He wanted to be a priest growing up and enrolled in the seminary as a teenager.
- Has dyslexia.
- He now believes in Scientology.
- He was on the wrestling team in high school.
- He is ambidextrous.
- He enjoys skydiving, scuba diving, and flying airplanes.
- He owns a WWII P-51 Mustang.
- He is a vegetarian.

CAMERON DIAZ

- She left home at 16 to travel the world as a model.
- She is extremely superstitious.
- She has a reputation for never being on time.
- She will only wash her face in Evian Spring Water.
- Her favorite sport is surfing.
- She has broken her nose four times.

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

- He sings himself to sleep.
- He collects sneakers and sports jerseys.
- His favorite ice cream is Baskin Robin's Daiquiri Ice.
- He founded the Justin Timberlake Foundation which is a save the music program.
- He owns 6 Harley Davidson's.
- His greatest fears are dying unloved, snakes, sharks, and spiders.
- He loves skiing and snowboarding.
- He is a fan of country music.

MANDY MOORE

- She wanted to be a news reporter.
- She has had her tonsils removed.
- Her favorite movie is Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.
- She struggles with depression.
- She has three cats.
- She loves rollercoaster's.

JOHNNY DEPP

- His nickname is “Mr. Stench”
- He wanted to be a rock musician growing up.
- He dropped out of school at 15.
- He owned a night club in L.A. called The Viper Room.
- He adopted a one eyed Andalusian horse named Goldeneye.
- He is extremely interested in Jack the Ripper.
- He loves animated films and cartoons.
- He speaks fluent French.
- He once painted a billboard.
- As a child he was allergic to chocolate.

REESE WITHERSPOON

- Her real name is Laura.
- She attended Stanford University majoring in English Literature.
- She runs her own production company.
- She collects antique linens and is crazy about old embroidery.
- She is a vegetarian.

BEN AFFLECK

- He owns vintage arcade games.
- All of his teeth are capped.
- He has a basketball court at his house.
- He loves the Boston Red Socks.
- He speaks Spanish, French, and Arabic.
- He has a fear of flying.
- He owns five motorcycles.
- He wrote and starred in his own screenplay.

ANNE HATHAWAY

- She has the same name as William Shakespeare's wife.
- Is a vegetarian.
- Attended Vassar and New York University majoring in English and minoring in Women's Studies.
- She has a chocolate lab named Esmeralda.
- She spent a week in Nicaragua vaccinating kids for Hepatitis A.
- She plays the piano.
- Her favorite novel is *The Fountainhead*.

TIGER WOODS

- His nickname is “Mr. T”.
- His is African American / Asian.
- He attended Stanford University.
- He had lasic surgery.
- His real name is Eldrick.
- He is an only child.
- He was granted dual citizenship by Thailand.
- He wears a red shirt on the final day of every tournament.
- He enjoys working out, boating, water sports, fishing, and car racing.
- He lives in FL.

SCARLETT JOHANSSON

- She has a twin brother.
- She was rejected from the college that she applied for.
- Her parents are divorced.
- She has a cat named Trooper and a Chihuahua named Maggie.
- She adores Woody Allen.
- She is Jewish.
- Her favorite city is London.
- She tap dances.