



MY BELONGINGS

Free activities that go along with our collections videos:

After watching these short videos, your students can engage in the following activities:



1. Think about something you or a family member collects. Write one to two paragraphs describing the collection and why you/family member collects it. Share out with a partner or your class. Use your best speaking voice!



2. Think about something you or a family member collects. Draw one item from the collection and explain why it is your favorite, or has a very special meaning. Share out with a partner or your class. Use your best speaking voice!

3. Think about something you or a family member collects. At home, create a 1 minute video showing the collection. Explain why it is important to you, and why you collected these items. Present this to the class.



4. As a class, start a collection that can be displayed in the classroom. "Our Class Collectables-We All Belong" Each student can bring in an object, or draw something that is very special to them, and it can be displayed in a corner of the room. Students can share what they added to the collection.



5. Students can write the story of their collection. Think of the 5 W's and How- then write! **What** is the collection? **Where** did they get it from? **When** did the collecting start? **Who** collects the items? **Why** were the items collected? **How** are they collected?



6. If you have never collected anything. Think about what you would love to collect. Would it be sneakers, cool t-shirts, specific toys, baseball cards? Draw 5 things you would want to collect. Or create new and imaginary things to collect. Make up the name of the new item and draw it as colorful as you can. Have fun!!! Get creative!!! Share out to a partner or the class.



7. Let's get theatrical! Become one of the items in your collection. Speak as if you were one of your collectables-write a monologue. Describe who you are. How does it feel to be part of the collection? Do you like belonging to the group? Where do you fit in-were you the first collection piece? The last? Add anything else you want to tell your audience.





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Virtual/Class Program:

Target: K-8



Primary Disciplines: Social Emotional Learning /Literacy

For the Teacher:

This activity is great for all learners and is a differentiated activity at its best! It fosters 21st century skills with critical thinking at the forefront! This is the perfect activity to support a SEL (social emotional learning) program and be integrated in a literacy class. This lesson also supports a growth mindset in the classroom.



It has been said that a sense of belonging is a protective factor helping individuals manage stress and other behavioral issues. A student feels they belong when they fit in or have a feeling of being an important member of their class.

When we feel we have support, and belong to a group of any kind, we are not alone and cope more efficiently with struggles in our life.



Our collection series videos are meant to show students that as humans we all are “hunters and gatherers” and “our belongings” give us a sense of belonging! Listening to all types of people collecting things, and expressing their feelings about their belongings, is a great way to build community in your classroom, and have students use public speaking skills to share!



Essential questions:

- What does it mean to belong?
- How can you make everyone feel like they belong?
- Can collecting special items make you feel a sense of belonging?



Objectives:



- Students will think about what it means to belong.
- Students will have a sense of belonging by sharing special things they collect.
- Students will complete a collection collage, share it with classmates, and get to know their classmates better.



Materials: Videos on the Toy Museum website, Collection Collage template





Procedure:



1. **Build background:** Throughout history humans have been hunters and gathers. As humans, we collect things that become “our belongings” and make us feel like we belong. For ex: If we collect pokemon cards, or baseball cards, or comic books, or video games, or stickers, etc and so do our friends-we ban together because we like the same thing. We feel like we belong to a group.



2. Share with your students if you collect anything and how that collection makes you feel. If you do not collect anything, discuss the collection of books in your library that you have collected over the years.



3. Today we will watch a video about different people who collect things. As you watch and listen, I want you to think about one thing that stands out to you about their story.



4. **Turn and talk:**

What was one thing that stood out to you (older students you can say resonated)? Share out.

Have you or anyone in your family ever collected anything like me, or the people in the video? Share out.



5. **Stop and jot:** In a notebook, or make an anchor chart for students to respond on. How did collecting these items make you feel? Share out.



6. Show students Collection Collage. If your students need the model, fill it in and show it as an example. Tell students that each of them will think about things they collect, and/or things they want to collect. Then, they will fill in the collage with words or they can draw pictures of the item.



7. Each student will share their collage, and jot down the names of the students that they discover they share a common collection with. After everyone has gone, group the students in “belonging groups” and have them share what they have in common.



Extension Activities:

1. Create a bulletin board “Our Class Collectables-We All Belong!” Hang all the student collages.





2. Students write the story of their collection. Think of the 5 W's and How-then write! **What** is the collection? **Where** did they get it from? **When** did the collecting start? **Who** collects the items? **Why** were the items collected? **How** are they collected? Share your story.



3. Let's get theatrical! Become one of the items in your collection. Speak as if you were one of your collectables-write a monologue. Describe who you are. How does it feel to be part of the collection? Do you like belonging to the group? Where do you fit in-were you the first collection piece? The last? Add anything else you want to tell your audience.



Core Standards:

All 50 States support SEL Standards:



<https://www.positiveaction.net/blog/sel-standards>

NY

<https://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/SELBenchmarks2022.pdf>

NJ

<https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/selearning/docs/SELCompetencies.pdf>



Literacy Standards:

<https://www.thecorestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/CCRA/SL/>

