

Pick a Pack of Pals

GRADES

4-8

TIME

30 minutes

TOPIC

Social Comparison
Stereotyping

SPACE

Classroom

MATERIALS

- Approximately 10 images of a wide variety of children/teens (one child per image). Be sure to include different body types, genders and ethnicities.

OUTLINE

1. Introduce students (if they are not already familiar) to the concept of inferring (to deduce and conclude or judge information based on evidence).
2. Then explain that they are to choose 2 persons from the images that they think they would like to have as friends.
3. Get students to discuss their inferences (He's smiling so I think he'll be funny. She's sweating so I think she likes to play outside.). **Be sure to highlight evidence-based observations against unfounded assumptions.**
4. Challenge the student's presumptions and their reasoning behind their assumptions. Ask them about the "hidden attributes" (someone who shares, includes others, is funny). Remind them that acceptance based on appearance only provides part of the puzzle