

ACTIVITY 5: MY GROUP MAP

AGE: First through Grade 3

WHAT YOU’LL NEED:

- Paper
- Pens, pencils, markers or crayons

PURPOSE

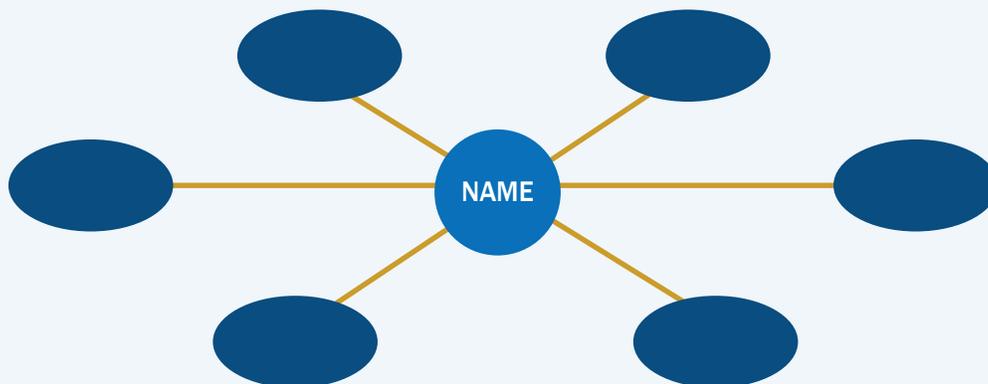
In elementary school, your child is learning what it means to be part of different groups such as your family, school groups, and their community. In this activity, you’ll help your child think about their roles as members of various groups, how these groups interact with each other, and how the different groups are similar and different from one another.



This activity relates to the Community; Civics, Government and Society element of the **Social Studies** domain of the VELs.

HERE’S WHAT YOU CAN DO!

1. For this activity, your child will draw an identity map. Start by having your child write their name in a circle in the middle of a piece of paper. Have them draw lines from the circle with their name to other circles on the page to look something like this:



2. Ask your child to list the different groups they belong to in each of the bubbles. If they need prompting consider their family, classroom, any after school activities such as sports; religious groups, community groups, and larger social groups such as their neighborhood or town.

3. Talk to your child about their membership in each of these groups. Ask questions such as,
 - What does it mean to be a member of this group (their classroom for example)?
 - What is expected of people in the group?
 - What are the rules?
 - How is that different than being in another group, such as a sports team or a member of your family?
4. Ask your child questions about how their membership in certain groups impact how they think and act. For example:
 - Do you learn different skills because you participate in groups (like Boy Scouts or a religious group)?
 - Do you have different activities they participate in because of the groups they are involved in?
 - How might someone not in that group have a different experience?
5. Lastly, talk to your child about the ways in which the different groups in their life interact. Ask questions such as:
 - Do all members of our family live in the same community? What are some similarities and differences in the communities our family lives in?
 - Do some of their classmates attend the same after school program or religious group? How does that impact your friendships?
 - Where do you feel the most connected?



SWITCH IT UP!

- When you are out in your community, continue the conversation about different groups you encounter. You could ask, “How are those groups different and similar to the ones you are in?” or “What might it mean to be a member of those groups?”
- Focus on local institutions and groups that promote the common good. Ask your child to think about ideas such as, “What does it mean to be an employee at a doctor’s office or hospital (or a fireman or A policeman)?” or What other groups might those people also be a member of?



BRIDGING ACROSS DOMAINS

These are ways to work on other areas of development (or bridge across domains) during the same activity.

- **Language:** This a great opportunity to talk with and listen to your child’s perspectives on the groups to which they belong. Ask open-ended questions that encourage your child to provide their opinions and ideas, and what they like and don’t like about belonging to these groups.

