

Last One Standing

22

This guessing game can be used within groups as a way for students to build connections, laugh, and get to know each other better. Students can also make connections to academic content by describing a historical figure, celebrity, landform, shape, or other subject of study.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

- Model for students appropriate clues. Use yourself as an example:
 1. "I am at school."
 2. "I am wearing a white shirt."
 3. "I am six feet tall."

STEPS

- Invite students to think of three facts about themselves. The first should be one they think is true for everyone in the group, the second should be one they think is true for some people, and the third should be one they think is true for only themselves. For example:
 1. "I am at school."
 2. "I have a dog."
 3. "My dog's name is Bingo."
- Next, students write their facts down on a piece of paper. (They can fold it when they are finished if desired.)
- Collect the papers.
- All students stand.
- Pull out one of the pieces of paper and read the statements aloud, pausing after each statement to allow time for students to sit down. As you read, students stay standing if the statement is true for them. If the statement does not apply to them, they sit down.
- After all three clues have been read, there should only be one person standing. (Note: In the unlikely event that more than one person is standing at the end, e.g., two people coincidentally have a dog named Bingo, you can ask which of the students wrote the card and that person can remain standing.)
- Encourage the members of the class to ask the "last person standing" questions about their statements (for example, "How did you get the name Bingo for your dog?") to further get to know one another.

Continued on next page >

GRADE
LEVEL **K-6**

SKILLS PRACTICED

Self-control, writing, listening, speaking

MATERIALS NEEDED

Paper and pencils

CATEGORY



VIRTUAL TIPS

Instead of using paper and pencil, have the group use the chat function to privately share their three clues with the host of the meeting. As the clues are being read, have students leave on their camera if the clue is true for them and turn off their camera if the clue is not true.



Last One Standing

(continued)

VARIATIONS

- ◆ For younger students who are not yet able to write clues on their own, you can choose a child to describe, using three facts you know about them. For example, “This person is five years old. This person has a brother. This person’s birthday is November 15.”
- ◆ Consider having students work in partnerships, shifting the game to Last Partners Standing. In this case, have partnerships determine three true clues that they both have in common. For example:
 1. “We go to the same school.”
 2. “We like pizza.”
 3. “Our middle names are Rose.”
- ◆ Have students submit the clues as if they are a famous historical figure. For example, a student might pick George Washington and list three facts they know about him.



26

Name Three

A collaborative game in which students interact with academic and/or social-emotional content by drawing connections between concepts or items in a variety of content areas.

GRADE LEVEL K-6

SKILLS PRACTICED

Cooperation, focus, academic preparedness, responsibility, self-control

MATERIALS NEEDED

Paper/pencil or whiteboard/dry-erase markers

CATEGORY



VIRTUAL TIPS

Place students in breakout rooms in small groups or in partnerships.



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

- Preassign small groups.
- Review group norms or elicit responses to the prompt “What makes group work go well?”
- Differentiate groups if needed.

STEPS

- Assign students to small groups of two to four.
- Assign one student in the group to be the recorder to write down responses.
- Students name three things that are related to each other in response to the prompts that you provide. This is a flexible framework that can be used for a variety of content areas. Examples:
 - Kindergarten: Name (or draw) three animals that live in the ocean.
 - First grade: Name three words in the -at word family.
 - Second grade: Name three things we can make from trees.
 - Third grade: Name three multiplication sentences with a product of 100.

VARIATIONS

- ◆ Adjust group size if needed.
- ◆ Change “name three” to “name five” to encourage students to find more connections with one another.
- ◆ Encourage students to build connections with their peers by providing prompts such as “Name three things you and the other members of your group have in common.”

Just Like Me!

A leader asks the class questions about traits, preferences, activities, families, and other characteristics to show how much the group has in common. Students respond by standing up and together saying, “Just like me!”

Skills practiced

Active listening; making connections; categorizing

Materials needed

Prepare a list of things students might have in common, stated in first person sentences. For example, you might include preferences (I like egg rolls, My favorite season is fall, etc.); games or sports played (I like to play chess, soccer, basketball, etc.); out-of-school activities (I’ve acted in a play, I’ve marched in a parade, I’ve been to the dentist recently, I’ve cooked a meal for my family, etc.); experiences (I’ve broken a bone, I’ve seen a bear in the wild, etc.); or moods (I’m feeling tired, I’m feeling energetic, I’m feeling sad, etc.). You can also brainstorm a list of statements with the class.

Preparing students for success

- If necessary, discuss and model how to safely stand up and sit down in the circle.
- Do a practice round so students can try out standing up and saying “Just like me!” in unison.

How to do it

1. Students sit in a circle. The teacher or a leader calls out a statement such as “I have a cat” and everyone whom the statement applies to gets up and says together, “Just like me!” Students then sit down and wait for the next statement.
2. The activity continues through ten statements.
3. At the end, reflect with children about what they noticed they had in common. Also encourage children to have more discussions about things they have in common during recess or lunch.

Just Like Me!

Grades K–8