

Professional Development Workshop

Warsaw – 8th October 2015

Icebreakers for scientists and environmentalists

1. Mixing moments

Ice-breaking part of the session starts with a series of off-your-seat mixing moments with participants going to corners of the room, explaining their choice, and introducing themselves to new people of a different nationality

e.g. favourite colour – red, blue, green, yellow

e.g. favourite season – spring, summer, autumn, winter

e.g. favourite food – paella, pasta, pierogi, pizza, polenta, potatoes (not used)

e.g. favourite drink – beer, coffee, Coke, fruit juice, tea, water, wine (not used)

e.g. most important scientist – Copernicus, Curie, Darwin, Newton

(n.b. only Polish and British used because of location and my own nationality. Another variation would have included Einstein, Hippocrates, Pasteur, Vesalius etc. And non-Europeans)

2. A coin in my pocket

While in the groups, participants were asked to find a coin and tell someone of a different nationality what they were doing in the year it was minted. This was messy, and so I simply selected a date – 2009 – because I had prepared a 100m copy of a 2009 penny earlier.

3. Atoms and molecules

Preparations:

Expand, print and cut up this page. Give each participant a letter. See what happens. Most will soon spot that they can make links e.g. H₂O, NaCl. This is of course all to do with making partnerships

H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	He	S
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	He	S
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Na	S
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Na	S
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Na	Mn
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Na	Mn
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Cl	Fe
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Cl	Fe
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Cl	Pb
H	O	C	N	H	O	C	H	Cl	Pb

(Devised for this etwinning event)

3. The Pegasus partnership puzzle



Underlying idea

Partnerships involve a mixture of talents and capabilities
Fun way of finishing the 'what makes a good partnership' session

Preparations

Find some pictures of creatures:

- A4 size line drawings for demonstration – laminated perhaps, or on the screen/flipchart:
 - o I used a cat, giraffe, fish and elephant
 - o I used a unicorn and a gryphon (and a flag with a Welsh dragon)
 - o Pegasus
- A6 or A7 size line drawings of 10+ creatures e.g. ant, chicken, crocodile, dolphin, eagle, flamingo, gorilla, pig, scorpion, snake, spider, tiger, whatever you can find. Print. Cut up

Other equipment

- A3 paper for sketches
- Thicker pens for sketching perhaps

Activity

Work in pairs

Collect pictures of two creatures

Look at the pictures

Share the names in your two languages

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each creature

Create, draw and name a new creature using the best characteristics of both creatures

Plenary - And finally parade your new creature in front of the other participants. Photograph

(Devised for this etwinning event)

5. Diamond ranking exercise *(not used on 8th October 2015)*

Preparation

A4 size or on the screen / flip chart

- diamond in nine squares – one, two, three, two, one
- title: I had prepared *"The world's greatest challenge"*
- nine key words : I had prepared AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE, DISEASE, EDUCATION, ENERGY, FOOD, POPULATION, WAR, WATER on one piece of A4 paper
- cut them up, one set per group

Activity

Split the group into smaller groups of perhaps three or four

Group then ranks the nine cards - one, two, three, two, one

Plenary – groups share findings with each other

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