

The Battle for the Orange

Can this be a win-win situation?



Complexity



5-13 years



30 minutes



4-30



Peace



Violence



Human Rights

Type of activity

Group competition and discussion

Overview

Children compete for possession of an orange and discuss how to resolve conflicts.

Objectives

- To discuss the need for communication in instances of conflict
- To reflect on strategies for resolving conflict

Preparation

None

Materials

- One orange

Instructions

1. Explain that the group is going to play 'the Orange Game'. Divide the children into two groups. Ask Group A to go outside (or to a corner of the room where they won't hear you) and wait for you there.
2. Tell Group B that in this activity their goal is to get the orange because they need its juice to make orange juice.
3. Go to Group A and tell them that their goal in this activity is to get the orange because they need the peel of the orange to make an orange cake.
4. Bring both groups together inside and ask them to sit in a line facing each other.
5. Tell the groups that they have three minutes to get what they need. Emphasise that they should not use violence to get what they want. Then place one orange between the two groups and say, "Go".

Usually someone will take the orange and one group will then have it. How the groups deal with the situation may be a surprise: sometimes they will try to negotiate to divide the orange in half; at other times they will not negotiate at all. Sometimes the groups will communicate further and realise that they each need different parts of the orange. Someone from one of the groups may even peel the orange, taking the part they need. Do not interfere.

6. After three minutes say, "Stop" or "Time's up".

Debriefing and evaluation

1. Discuss the activity by asking question such as these:
 - What happened in this activity? How do you think it went?
 - Did your group get what it wanted before the three minutes were up?

- What was your group's goal?
 - What was the outcome of the conflict over the orange?
 - What did you do to achieve this outcome?
 - Is it important for people to communicate in order to resolve conflicts? Why?
 - Do people always want the same thing in a conflict?
 - Have you ever experienced a similar situation to the "orange conflict"? What happened?
 - Would you do anything differently if you were in the same situation again? Why?
2. Relate the activity to human rights with the following questions:
- What are some of the human rights of children that are violated in a conflict?
 - What do you think should be done so that human rights are not violated in conflicts?
 - Does the Convention on the Rights of the Child protect children from armed conflict? Should it do so?

Suggestions for follow-up

The activity 'Picturing Ways Out of Violence' also deals with resolving conflict. Several activities also require negotiation, for example, 'Capture the Castle' and 'Cookie Monster'.

Ideas for action

Develop ideas about how to deal with conflict within the group. List these ideas on a chart and hang it somewhere in the room.

Tips for the facilitator

After you have given the groups three minutes, remove the orange, or what is left of it, to avoid distraction during the debriefing. At the end of the activity you could give the children some orange juice, or segments, or a piece of orange cake prepared before the lesson (bearing in mind that some children may have dietary restrictions or allergies).

During the conflict, you should try not to influence the results, but be careful to emphasise to the children that there should be no violence in order to get what they want.

For younger children, or children who have not been introduced to the concept of human rights previously, you can keep to the first part of the debriefing.

Adaptation

For larger groups, you could: create four groups instead of two and have two "Orange battles" taking place at the same time. Simply form two Group 'A's, and two Group 'B's and give the same instructions as indicated above. Have one Group A sit opposite one Group B, and the second Group A sit opposite the second Group B. Place one orange between each set of groups. Start and stop the activity at the same time. It may be interesting to discuss the different processes and results in each "Battle".