



## All in the Family

### Experiencing Similarities and Differences

#### Summary:

Participants examine and compare individual objects chosen from a collection, discovering among their objects multiple attributes and qualities, as well as relatedness. In discussion, these concepts are applied to human diversity and commonality.

#### Objectives:

Learners will:

- Examine a specific object and discuss its attributes.
- Compare the attributes of their object with those of others, experiencing diversity and commonality.
- Experience analogous diversity and commonality among people.

#### Materials:

A family or collection of similar objects, such as flowers, mixed nuts, a variety of pens or pencils, oranges, lemons, etc.

#### Procedure:

Have participants sit in a circle. Place the collection of objects in the center of the circle, and ask participants to reach into the center and take one object. (If you prefer, pass the collection around the circle, with each participant selecting one object.) Give participants a few moments to examine their object carefully.

Go around the circle four times, giving each participant an opportunity to answer the following questions (one question per round):

- Why did you select that specific item?
- How is your object different from everyone else's object?
- How is your object similar to everyone else's object?
- Relate these similarities and differences to ways in which people are similar and different.

Conclude the activity with a brief summary discussion.

#### Reflection Questions:

1. What did you learn from this activity?
2. Do you think people are more alike than different, or vice versa?
3. How do similarities and differences contribute to conflict?... to conflict resolution?

#### Extension:

Use the following art project to expand this lesson:

Have every participant draw a picture of his/her own face. Then help the participants glue, staple, or tape their picture to the object they selected during the attributes activity. Display the objects in the room. If you have leftover objects in the collection, suggest that participants embellish these with faces cut from magazines. Add them to the display, creating a "garden of diversity."