



COMMON GROUND BINGO

“What divides us pales in comparison to what unites us.”

Edward Kennedy

This Common Ground Bingo activity will show students to appreciate the things they share rather than focusing on the things that divide them.

PREPARATION

- A** What do you need?
- Instruction sheet
 - Bingo card for each student (it’s okay if some students have the same card)
 - Follow up reflection sheet (optional)
 - Pen/pencil
 - Timer (optional)
- B** There are 3 different Bingo cards. Print some of each so not all students have the exact same card.

ACTIVITY

- 1** Open class with a brief discussion of the phrase “common ground.” What do those words mean? What do they make you think of? What do you picture when you hear “common ground?” (10 minutes)
- 2** Explain that common ground means finding something you share with the people you meet, even when you come from different places in life.
- 3** Tell students that you are going to read a list of qualities or experiences. They should not respond to this list while you’re reading it. (5 minutes)
(See next page for the full list)





ACTIVITY (continued)

- 3
- I have visited a different country
 - I am double-jointed
 - I have a pet
 - I have more than one sibling
 - I can say "Hello" in a different language
 - I am allergic to something
 - I have broken a bone
 - I play an instrument
 - We were born in the same month
 - I play a sport
 - I have gone camping
 - I have visited another state
 - We have the same favorite show or movie
 - I have visited a different country
 - I have a special collection of something
 - I do *not* have a pet
 - I play video games
 - I love pizza
 - I love to read
 - I can ride a bike
 - I love spicy food
 - I have ridden a horse
 - We are wearing the same color
 - I am afraid of spiders
 - I ride the bus to school
 - I have been on a train
 - I have moved homes
 - I have met a famous person
 - I have been to a concert

- 4
- Tell them to think about which of those things are true about them. They will be looking to find someone they have something in common with—and they might be surprised to learn how much they have in common with some of their classmates.

- 5
- Pass one bingo card out to each student.


- 6
- Give instructions:
- Quickly find a classmate to pair up with.
 - Once paired up, see if you can find something you have in common on your Bingo board.
 - If you have something in common, write your initials on each other's Bingo board (in the square you have in common). Each square can only be initialed by one student.
 - If you have something in common that isn't listed, you can use the free space in the middle to write it down.
 - Ask a follow up question about what you have in common. For example:
If you both have pets, what kind of pets?
 - After 30 seconds, a timer will go off and you'll scramble to find another partner (you can also be set up in two circles so you rotate from person to person instead of scrambling)
 - The first student to get 5 in a row shouts "**Bingo**" and will come up to the front of the class. You win if you remember the answers to your follow up questions for each square.

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<p>I have visited a different country (Where did you go? What did you eat?)</p>	<p>I am double jointed (What joint? Can you demonstrate?)</p>	<p>I have a pet (What animal? What is its name?)</p> 	<p>I can say “Hello” in a different language (What language? How do you say it?)</p>	<p>I have broken a bone (What bone? How did it happen?)</p> 
<p>I am allergic to something (What are you allergic to?)</p>	<p>I love to read (What is your favorite book?)</p> 	<p>I play an instrument (What instrument?)</p>	<p>We were born in the same month (What’s your birthday?)</p>	<p>We have the same favorite color (What’s your favorite color?)</p> 
<p>We have the same favorite show or movie (What is it?)</p>	<p>I am afraid of spiders (What do you do when you see one?)</p> 		<p>I can ride a bike (When did you learn?)</p>	<p>I have more than one sibling (How many siblings? Are they brothers or sisters?)</p>
<p>I have moved homes (Did you have to change schools?)</p>	<p>I ride the bus to school (Do you ride the same one?)</p> 	<p>We are wearing the same color (What color is it? What garment?)</p>	<p>I have a special collection of something (What do you collect?)</p>	<p>I have been on a train (Where were you going?)</p> 
<p>I have ridden a horse (Where were you riding?)</p> 	<p>I have visited another state (What state? What did you do there?)</p>	<p>I have met a famous person (Who and where?)</p>	<p>I love pizza (What are your favorite toppings?)</p> 	<p>I have been to a concert (What concert was it?)</p>

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<p>I love spicy food (What is your favorite spicy food?)</p> 	<p>I have broken a bone (What bone? How did it happen?)</p> 		<p>I ride the bus to school (Do you ride the same one?)</p> 	<p>We have the same favorite color (What’s your favorite color?)</p>
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<p>I do <i>not</i> have a pet (If you could, what pet would you get?)</p> 	<p>We have the same favorite show or movie (What is it?)</p>	<p>I have a special collection of something (What do you collect?)</p>	<p>I love to read (What is your favorite book?)</p> 	<p>I play video games (What’s your favorite game?)</p>










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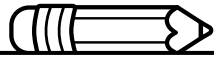
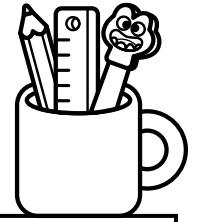
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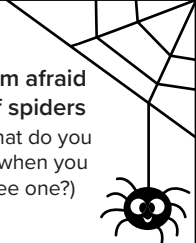

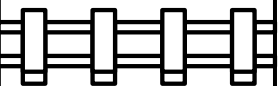

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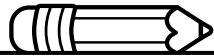
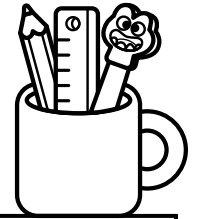
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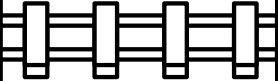



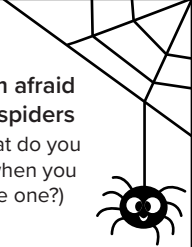


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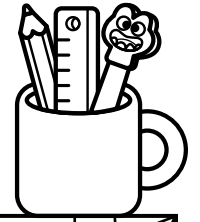
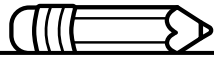
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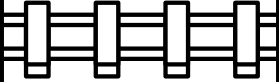








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REFLECTION WORKSHEET

We can find common ground!

INSTRUCTIONS

Look around the classroom and think about what you learned by playing our Bingo game. Use those reflections to answer the questions below.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Was there anyone you weren't expecting to have anything in common with that you did? What did you have in common?
 - If you disagree with this person in the future, how will knowing something about them change your perspective?

- 2 Was there anyone you *were* expecting to have something in common with that you didn't?
 - Why do you think you expected to have something in common with them?

- 3 Why is it important to find out things you have in common with your classmates? How does this change your view of your class? How can you use this to build a community?



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