



EduTrend Contents

P4C · KNOWLEDGE AND EPISTEMOLOGY · PRIMARY

Know, Believe or Guess?

Sorting statements by how sure we can be

Ages 8–11

Level: Developing

45 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 02

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 02 · AT A GLANCE

Know, Believe or Guess?

Pupils sort statement cards such as “Water is wet”, “It will rain tomorrow”, “My dog loves me”, “Dinosaurs lived long ago” and “There is life on other planets” into three hoops: know, believe and guess. Groups compare their sorting and argue about the cards they disagree on. They create questions and enquire into the difference between knowing and believing.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- distinguish know, believe and guess;
- give reasons and evidence;
- handle disagreement;
- build on others’ ideas.

KEY WORDS

know · believe · guess · evidence ·
sure · true

CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: evidence. English: fact and opinion. RE: belief.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to
think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose
a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree,
add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Statement cards
- Three hoops or circles
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 02 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Sort the statement cards into three hoops.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
8–18 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
18–40 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“What is the difference between knowing and believing?”</i>
40–45 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Explain the difference between knowing and believing with an example.

ACTIVITY 02 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers often say that knowing needs a belief that is true and well supported.

Disagreements in sorting show that the boundaries between knowing and believing can be unclear.

Common ideas to listen for

- “Believing means you are wrong.” Beliefs can be true.
- “If you feel sure, you know.” Feeling sure is not enough.
- “Every statement fits one hoop.” Some are debatable.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use six cards.

Stretch

Write a statement that belongs in two hoops.

WORKSHEET 1

Our questions

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Write questions the stimulus makes you wonder about.

Our questions

Question	Who asked	Votes

WORKSHEET 2

Sort it

Record your sorting.

Sort it

Statement	Know, believe or guess	Why

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can you know something that turns out to be false? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Know, Believe or Guess? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Knowledge and Epistemology programme (primary, level: developing). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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