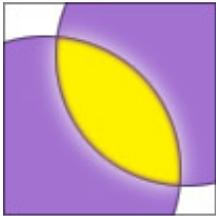


## Connections

Time: 15 Minutes



**Purpose:** To explore the similarities that connect people, even when their life experiences may be different.

Often, in looking at diversity, we focus on what separates us. Only when we concentrate on strengthening that which connects us, will we really understand diversity, thereby allowing us to grow together.

**Materials:** Create a worksheet or easel page diagrams similar to the samples on page 2 and 3.

### ACTIVITY

#### Instructions:

1. Separate the **group** into pairs. Give each pair one worksheet.
2. Have the **pairs** determine which person will be an A and which will be a B.
3. In the circles, **ask** the pairs to answer the question: What makes you different from your partner?
4. Independently and privately, A's should write in the A circle and B's should write in the B circle. Encourage them to think about their:
  - Background
  - Education
  - Hobbies
  - Travels
  - Books they have read
  - Television they like
  - Values and beliefs
  - Families
  - Other characteristics
5. After 3 minutes, ask them to share their "differences" with each other. As they share, ask them to think about what connects them from their life experiences. As they share, they should begin to see similarities. (For example: both may like the same music, have lived in the same part of the country, or enjoy the same sport.)
6. Instruct the pairs to write any similarities they discover in the area where the circles overlap.

#### Debrief:

**In a large group, ask:**

*What did you learn from this exercise?*

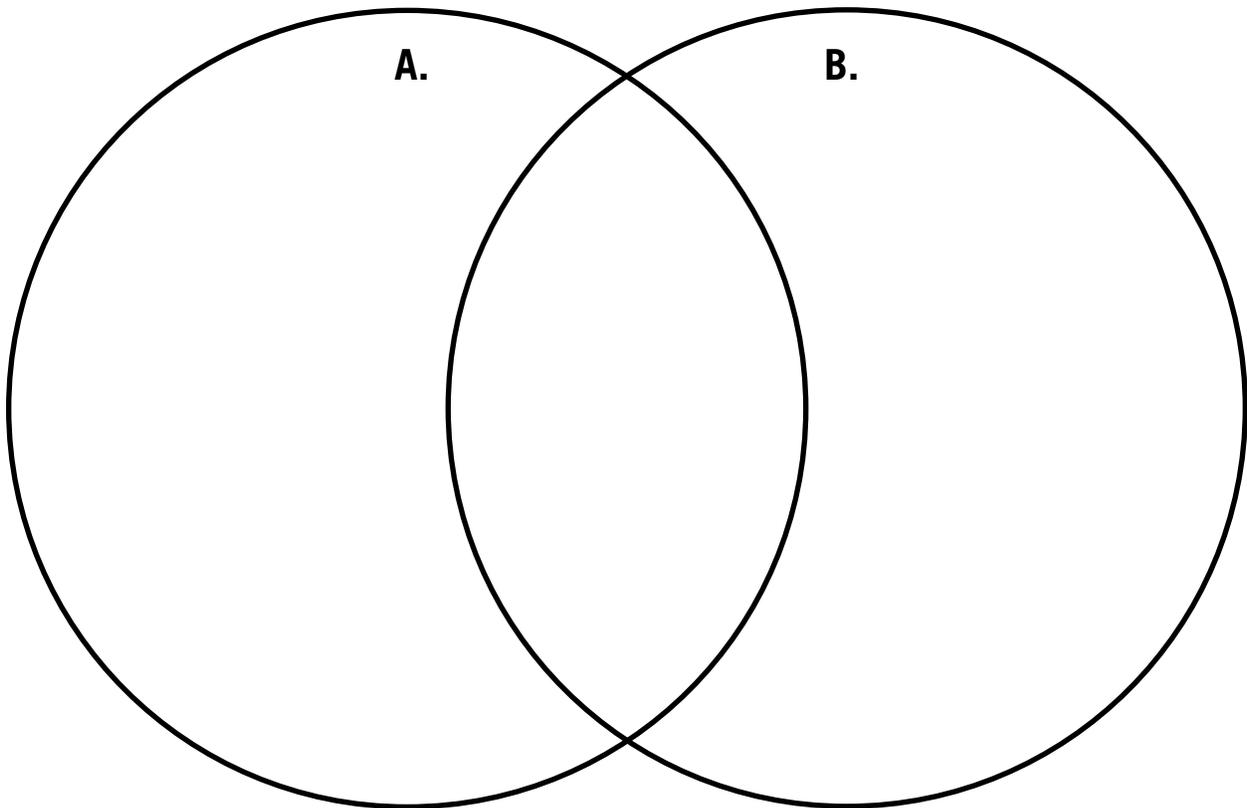
*Were you as different as you thought you were?*

*What's the benefit of learning about others in order to create connections?*

*What will you do with the connections you learned about?*

## Connections

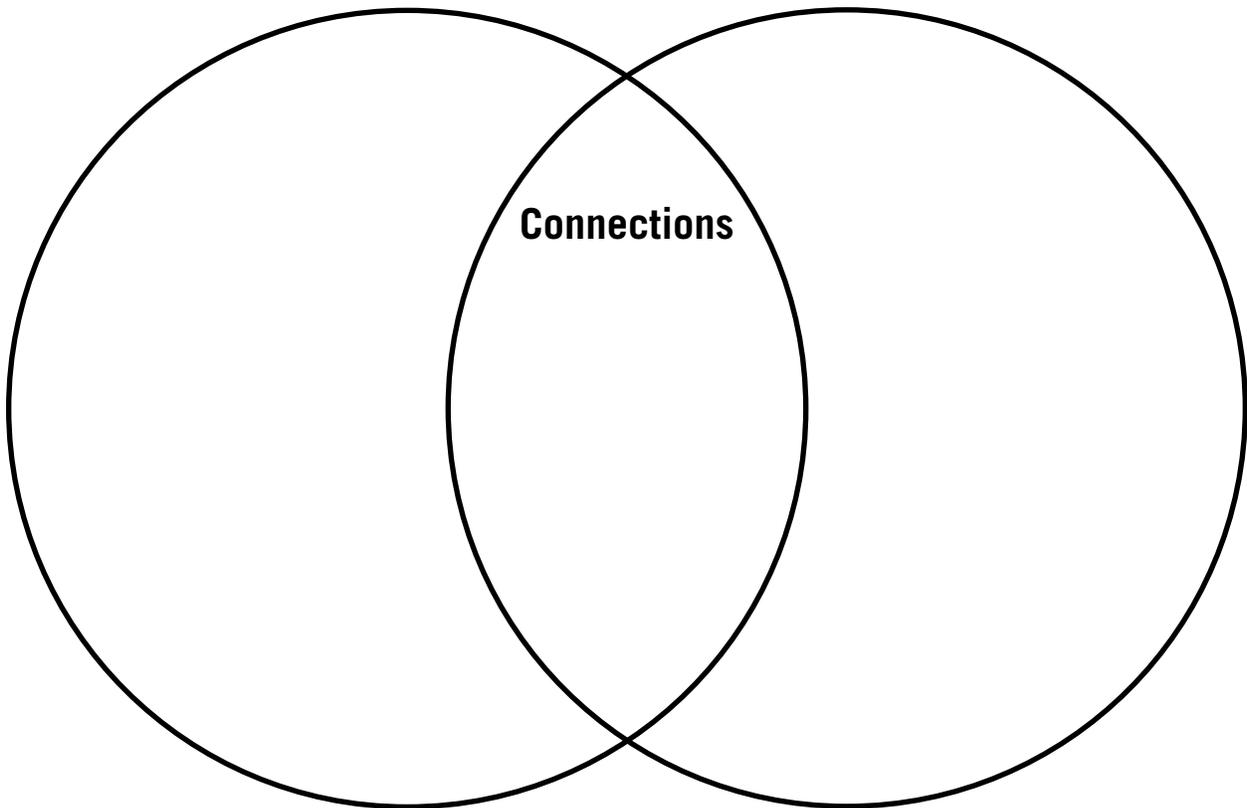
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1. What makes you different from your partner?

## Connections

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2. Where do you overlap and connect? List your connections.