

MAN/MOUSE

Source

This activity is taken from “Baustein zur nicht rassistischen Bildungsarbeit”: www.baustein.dgb-bwt.de/PDF/C1-BilderImKopf.pdf.

Themes

- ▶ Differences in perspectives

Other topics addressed: empathy, perception, images of oneself and others

Competences addressed

- ▶ Attitudes: openness and curiosity towards diversity; tolerance of ambiguity

Complexity : Level 1

Group size : any (participants will work in pairs)

Time : 30 minutes

Objectives

- ▶ To become conscious about our different ways of perceiving the world and reality
- ▶ To realise that there is not just one right or wrong reality
- ▶ To reflect on diversity.

Materials

Tables, A4 paper, pencils or crayons for all participants, a printout of the three pictures (man, mouse, man/mouse).

Preparation

This activity is a good warm-up activity. It can therefore be used at the start of a session.

Print out three pictures (man, mouse, man/mouse) for each pair.

Instructions

1. Ask all the participants to group in pairs at a table and provide each pair with a sheet of paper and a pencil.
2. Explain that participants will be shown an image and will then be asked to draw the image together, holding the same pencil simultaneously.
3. In each pair, ask participants to identify who is “A” and who is “B”.
4. Ask all the “As” to close their eyes. Show all the “Bs” the mouse image for about 30 seconds, then put the image aside.
5. Now ask all the “Bs” to close their eyes. Show all the “As” the man image for about 30 seconds, then put it aside.
6. Now tell all participants that you will show them the image again for 30 seconds before they start drawing together. Show all participants the man/mouse image.
7. Ask them to start drawing.
8. When all groups have finished, return to a circle for debriefing.

Debriefing and evaluation

You can debrief the activity using the following questions.

- ▶ What happened?
- ▶ What did you see (let A and B describe what they saw and show the man/mouse image again)?
- ▶ How did you proceed to draw together? How did co-operation and communication work?
- ▶ What could have been done differently?
- ▶ What does it have to do with intercultural learning?
- ▶ What is the role of predefined images or stereotypes in the process of seeing something in daily life?
- ▶ Do you face similar situations in your daily life? When? How can we deal with those situations?

Tips for facilitators

It is important to ensure that only half of the participants see the pictures.

You could orientate the discussion towards the idea that we often believe that “we see the same thing”, although what we perceive is different.

Intercultural learning is also about recognising the diversity in perceptions, symbols, meanings and points of view. This is what participants should get out of this activity.

Suggestions for follow-up

This activity can be followed by “Grandma, let me tell you about culture” in order to reflect on how we adapt to other people in various contexts.

It could also be followed by “Autobiography of intercultural encounters” in order to reflect on how we are influenced by others and by cultural heritage in what we perceive.

Handouts

