



Talking String Relationship Builder

Summary - one challenge in partner sharing is the open-ended idea of “just share.” The talking string helps this by giving everyone a target for sharing a common amount of information. Give each person a small amount of string or yarn (we find 30-50 cm is a nice conversation) and have them wrap it around one of their fingers. Their task is to share anything about themselves with a partner, and they can unwrap the string once for every new thing they share. When the string is unwound, their partner then has their turn sharing.

This works really well in combination with the inner / outer circle set-up with a new group that needs some help beginning the conversation. They can simply share random facts about themselves and it often leads to continued conversations as students discover interesting things about each other.



STEM Connections

This can be used as a strategy for encouraging conversations about any STEM topic - perhaps as a pre-assessment to learn what students know about a particular topic. For example - share everything you know about various biomes around the globe, share what you know about various elements on the periodic table. Students will often be surprised (and you will too) about how much knowledge on a topic already is living inside all of the brains in your classroom and so much more powerful to have them start the conversations with each other.