

Seven blind mice – what do they see? - Perspective

EXPLANATION:

Based on an Indian fable, Seven Blind Mice details the perspectives of six mice as they try to determine what is standing by the pond. It is only when the seventh mouse explored all the parts that they were able to decide what the object was! This activity requires students to understand how presenting an issue from various vantage points adds multiple layers of meaning — understanding other perspectives.

YEAR LEVELS: Years 1 - 3

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole class

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 40 – 60 mins

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

English: Sequence of content F-6

Strand: Literacy

• Listening and speaking interactions (Purposes and contexts through which students engage in listening and speaking interactions

• Listening and speaking interactions (Skills students use when engaging in listening and speaking interactions)

See also Personal and Social Capability learning continuum sub elements:

- Appreciate diverse perspectives
- Communicate effectively



SCOPE OF TASK

- 1. Activate students' prior knowledge by playing a game of 'Feely bag'. Place objects in a bag and take turns to blindfold a child ask them to feel an object and describe what they feel (but cannot see). This game encourages thinking skills, including perception, prediction and analysis. Ask questions:
 - How did they work out what the objects are?
 - How did they know? (are they relying on previous experiences and knowledges?)
- 2. Introduce/outline the story of *Seven Blind Mice*. Tell the students that they will need to pay close attention to what each character (mouse) believed what they saw (their perspective) beside the pond.
- 3. Read aloud Seven Blind Mice or listen to the story narrated by Bianca Chatfield:



4. Stop after each mouse's description of the object (*pillar*, *snake*, *spear*, *cliff*, *fan*, *rope*) and have students tell you what **they** think the object standing beside the pond is.

Red Mouse	Green Mouse	Yellow	Purple	Orange	Blue
		Mouse	Mouse	Mouse	Mouse
Pillar	Snake	Spear	Cliff	Fan	Rope

Questions could include:

- What did the final white mouse see?
- How did the white mouse determine what the object was?
- What did he use to decide it was an elephant?
- Were the other mice wrong when they described what they saw?



- 5. Discuss how each seven mice had a different point of view even though they were talking about the same "strange something" in their pond an elephant. Ask students questions:
 - Why might each of the first 6 mice have a different perspective?
 - What are they seeing?
- 6. Draw out the students understanding of different people's point of views. For example:
 - · Considering the whole picture and combining everyone's ideas
 - Part of a whole story
 - Two or more sides to every story
- 7. The inquiry can be completed with a discussion as to why it is important to consider the perspectives of others.
 - Have you and a friend ever seen the same thing in different ways?
 - How do you feel when someone doesn't agree with what you see?
 - Are other people's perspectives as important as ours?
 - Why do people have different perspectives?
 - Why is it important to try to consider the whole picture?

RESOURCES

Young, E., (2002). Seven Blind Mice, Puffin Books

Online video: The Kindness Curriculum – Seven Blind Mice, Read by Bianca Chatfield sourced from https://www.youtube.com/watch?time continue=13&v=mYglMKt hHw&feature=emb logo



