



PLANIT
TEACHERS

First Day of School Activities: Building Foundations for 14-Year-Olds

Student Name: _____

Class: _____

Due Date: _____

Introduction

Welcome to the first day of school! This is an exciting time for both students and teachers, filled with anticipation and sometimes a bit of nervousness. As a 14-year-old student, you are at a stage where you are exploring your identities and social relationships, making the first day of school a critical time for establishing a supportive and inclusive classroom culture.

Icebreaker Activities

Icebreaker activities are a great way to get to know your peers and teacher. Here are a few activities to help you break the ice:

1. **Human Bingo:** Create a bingo card with different traits, hobbies, or interests in each square. Find someone who fits each description and get them to sign the corresponding square.
2. **Two Truths and a Lie:** Share two true statements and one false statement about yourself. Your peers have to guess which one is the lie.
3. **The Name Game:** Each student introduces themselves and shares a unique fact about themselves. The next student has to repeat the previous student's name and fact, and then introduce themselves.

Complete the following icebreaker activity:

Write down two true statements and one false statement about yourself. Share them with your peers and ask them to guess which one is the lie.

Classroom Expectations

To ensure a positive and productive learning environment, it's essential to establish clear classroom expectations. These expectations include:

1. **Respect:** Treat others with kindness and respect, even if you disagree with them.
2. **Responsibility:** Take ownership of your actions and your learning.
3. **Active Participation:** Engage in class discussions and activities, and ask questions when you need help.

Complete the following activity:

Write a short reflection (about 250-300 words) on the importance of classroom expectations. How can you contribute to a positive and productive learning environment?

Team-Building Exercises

Team-building exercises help foster collaboration, problem-solving, and communication among students. Here are a few activities to help you build a strong team:

1. **Group Puzzle:** Work together to solve a puzzle or complete a challenge.
2. **Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of items or challenges that you have to complete around the school or classroom.
3. **Collaborative Drawing:** Work together to create a drawing or mural that represents your class or school.

Complete the following team-building exercise:

Work in small groups to complete a puzzle or challenge. Reflect on your experience and discuss the following questions:

- What were some challenges you faced during the activity?
- How did you work together to overcome these challenges?
- What did you learn about your teammates during the activity?

Reflection and Feedback

Reflection and feedback are essential for understanding your strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. Take a few minutes to reflect on your first day of school experience:

1. **What did you enjoy most about the first day of school?**
2. **What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?**
3. **What are your goals for the upcoming year, and how can you achieve them?**

Complete the following reflection activity:

Write a short reflection (about 250-300 words) on your first day of school experience. What did you learn about yourself and your classmates? What are your goals for the upcoming year?

Homework Activities

Complete the following activities to reinforce your understanding of the first day of school:

1. **Reflection Journal:** Write a short reflection (about 250-300 words) on your first day of school experience.
2. **Classroom Supply Checklist:** Ensure you have all the necessary supplies for the school year.
3. **Routine Establishment:** Create a daily routine that includes time for homework, study, and relaxation.

Complete the following homework activity:

Create a daily routine that includes time for homework, study, and relaxation. Share your routine with your peers and discuss the following questions:

- What are some challenges you may face in establishing a daily routine?
- How can you prioritize your tasks and manage your time effectively?
- What are some strategies you can use to stay organized and focused?

Extension Activities

Complete the following activities to extend your learning:

1. **School Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of items or challenges that you have to complete around the school.
2. **Welcome Video Project:** Create a short video (about 2-3 minutes) welcoming new students to the school.
3. **Classroom Constitution:** Work in small groups to draft a "classroom constitution" that outlines the rules and expectations for a positive and productive learning environment.

Complete the following extension activity:

Work in small groups to draft a "classroom constitution" that outlines the rules and expectations for a positive and productive learning environment. Present your constitution to the class and discuss the following questions:

- What are some key principles that should be included in a classroom constitution?
- How can you ensure that all students have a voice in the decision-making process?
- What are some strategies you can use to resolve conflicts and address issues that may arise?

Conclusion

The first day of school is just the beginning of an exciting academic year. Remember to stay engaged, ask questions, and seek help when you need it. By working together and supporting each other, you can create a positive and inclusive classroom culture that fosters academic success and personal growth.

Complete the following activity:

Write a short reflection (about 250-300 words) on what you learned about yourself and your classmates during the first day of school. What are your goals for the upcoming year, and how can you achieve them?

Assessment

Complete the following questions to assess your understanding of the first day of school activities:

1. **What are the three most important classroom expectations?**
2. **How can you show respect to your peers in the classroom?**
3. **What is the purpose of the icebreaker activity on the first day of school?**

Answer Key:

1. Respect, responsibility, and active participation.
2. By listening to them, using kind language, and being inclusive.
3. To help students get to know each other, build relationships, and feel comfortable in the classroom.