

The Wodaabe Tribe

Pictures of the Wodaabe Tribe from Chad make a brilliant stimulus: they're curious attention grabbing, reverse a traditional Western-norm, and can be embedded into any topic on Africa/other cultures.

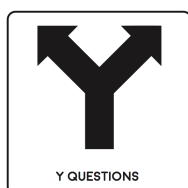


This enquiry often leads to questions about gender and stereotypes, and it's easy for pupils to say what they think we want to hear (an important thing to remember when Taking a Back Seat). To create a helpful sense of 'you' and 'them' early, begin with a Community-building game which requires the pupils to bond with minimal input from you. Such as:

The Sit Down Game: Each child has to go from standing to sat (or vice versa) but there's three rules:

1. One at a time
2. If two do at the same time, everyone starts again
3. No talking

Pass the clap: Begin a 'Mexican-wave' style single-clap around the circle, encouraging pupils to get it back to the beginning as fast as possible. Make it harder by sending it the other way, using one hand only, or making it diminish in volume as it goes around. Once it's been around a few times, encourage pupils to pass it across the circle by saying a name of someone else. This also familiarises them with passing 'speaker responsibility' around later in the discussion.

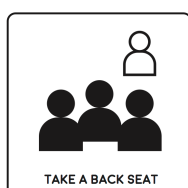


Show pupils this collection of pictures from the Wodaabe Tribe, in Chad.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-39070587>

Begin by asking for first thoughts on the pictures – what do they think is going on?

It probably won't surprise them to hear that most of the pictures are depicting a festival, but it may surprise them to hear it is men who are wearing make-up, trying to impress the women. You could either hear their thoughts on this context, and look for opportunities to run with the themes mentioned using any of the questions below. Alternatively, you could present 4 questions from below to be voted on.



Make-up/dressing up?

Why do people wear make-up?

Does make-up make people more beautiful/popular?

Do we all dress up?

Appearances:

How important are appearances?

Why do we care so much about how we look? Do we worry too much about what we look like?

Showing off:

When is it good to show off?

Why do people show off?

Choosing:

How should we choose our friends?

NEXT STEPS

Parents play such an influential role in how pupils think about concepts like appearance. You might find some revelations coming from the pupils that give you pause, and lead to new ideas about the PSHE syllabus.