



Get to Know Me Games

Building Connections in the Classroom

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DESCRIPTION

A suite of student-centered “know me” games and activities that you can use to learn more about your students. Each activity includes a quick overview, sample prompts, and classroom tips.

PREP TIME

5 minutes

ACTIVITY TIME

~10 minutes

MATERIALS

Varies based on game selected

Implementation Guidance

“Know Me” games are simple, low-prep activities designed to help you build relationships with students through consistent, casual moments of connection. They’re not about entertainment or filling time—they’re small invitations for students to share who they are, in ways that feel safe and engaging. These activities can be used:

- As quick warm-ups
- During advisory, homeroom, or SEL-focused time
- At natural transitions—after a break, before/after a test, or at the start of a new unit
- When energy feels low or the class needs a reset

They can be adapted to fit your subject, your classroom structure, and your teaching style. Whether you’re working with large classes, quieter students, or tech-limited environments, there’s flexibility built into each approach.

TIPS

- **Start light.** Begin with fun, low-stakes questions—then build toward more personal or reflective ones if your students are ready.
- **Keep it optional.** Offer multiple ways to participate: verbally, in writing, through movement, or digitally.
- **Model engagement.** Sharing your own answer—even briefly—helps set the tone and shows students their responses matter.
- **Build a rhythm.** You don't have to do these daily. Even using one activity every week or two can help strengthen the classroom community over time.
- **Following up can go a long way.** Through these games, you will learn small bits about your students' interests, passions, and things that are meaningful to them. Remember those small things and following up in casual conversation can go a long way in showing your students that they matter.
- **Use the following prompts.** Some students may be resistant to engaging in these activities. This is likely due to not understanding the purpose or benefit of these activities. Try using the following prompts to help them better understand the goal:
 - *"The more I know about what you care about, the better I can support your learning style and goals."*
 - *"Taking a little time to get to know each other can actually make group work, discussions, and even learning easier."*
 - *"Getting to know your interests helps me bring in examples and topics that actually matter to you."*
 - *"When we know each other better, it's easier to work together in groups and help each other out."*

These strategies aren't meant to add to your workload—they're small shifts that support connection and classroom culture. Feel free to modify, combine, or repeat activities based on what works best for your students.

Know Me Games

What follows is a collection of easy-to-implement ideas, each with example prompts and classroom suggestions. Use them as-is or make them your own.

Game	Examples	Tips
This or That. Give students two options and ask them to pick one. Can be done by raising hands, standing on different sides of the room, or clicking in a poll.	• Dogs or Cats • Text or Call • Marvel or DC • Math or English	Use as a bellringer, exit ticket, or Monday warm-up. Display on the board or ask verbally.
Would You Rather. Pose a “Would you Rather...” question. Students can respond verbally, in journals, or in small groups.	• Would you rather go back in time or into the future? • Would you rather have a rewind or pause button on life? • Would you rather always be hot or always cold?	Use for fun, reflection, or content tie-ins (e.g., during character analysis or history debates). Let students write their own for bonus creativity.
Four Corners. Label corners of the room with different options (A, B, C, D). Read a question, and students move to their chosen corner.	• What’s your ideal weekend? • A: Outdoors; B: Movies; C: Gaming; or D: Sleeping	Debrief after: “Why did you choose that corner?” You can modify it with fewer corners or allow “middle of the room” for undecided.
Emoji Check-In. Students choose an emoji that matches their current mood or energy and explain why.	• 😎 = “Feeling confident about my test!” • 🌃 = “Stayed up too late last night.” • 😟 = “Worried about a presentation.”	Use weekly for SEL check-ins or warm-ups. Pair with a visual emoji chart for younger students or ELLs. Responses can be verbal, written, or via classroom tech (Jamboard, Pear Deck, whiteboards).
Classroom Playlist Poll. Ask students “What song represents your mood today, your personality, your summer, ect.?” Collect answers to build a collaborative class playlist (e.g., Spotify, YouTube, etc.).	Not applicable	Use as a start-of-term bonding activity. Optional: Students explain their choice. Keep playlists classroom-appropriate by setting guidelines together.

This or That Prompts

General Fun Prompts

- Coffee or tea?
- Text or call?
- Sweet or salty?
- Pizza or tacos?
- Netflix or YouTube?
- Summer or winter?
- Dogs or cats?
- iPhone or Android?
- Early bird or night owl?
- Ice cream in a cone or a cup?

Pop Culture & Entertainment

- Marvel or DC?
- Superheroes or villains?
- Comedy or horror movies?
- TikTok or Instagram?
- Music or podcasts?
- Harry Potter or Percy Jackson?
- Reality TV or scripted series?
- Spotify or Apple Music?
- YouTube shorts or long videos?
- Concert or movie night?

School & Learning

- Math or English?
- Group work or solo work?
- Reading a book or watching the movie version?
- Tests or projects?
- PE or Art?
- Notetaking: Digital or handwritten?
- Science lab or class discussion?
- Working in silence or with music?
- In-person school or remote learning?
- Writing essays or giving presentations?

Lifestyle & Preferences

- Beach or mountains?
- Rainy day or sunny day?
- Big city or small town?
- Stay up late or wake up early?
- Clean desk or organized chaos?
- Walk or drive?
- Save money or spend it?
- Be too hot or too cold?
- Roller coaster or Ferris wheel?
- Work now or procrastinate?

Personality & Hypotheticals

- Lead or follow?
- Plan everything or go with the flow?
- Be famous or be rich?
- Always speak your mind or never speak again?
- Be invisible or be able to fly?
- Live in the past or the future?
- Always tell the truth or always get away with a lie?
- Win a million dollars or live 100 extra years?
- Read minds or time travel?
- Change your name or change your face?

Seasonal/Timely Prompts

Back to School

- New backpack or new shoes?
- Sit in the front or back of the class?
- Paper planner or digital calendar?

Fall

- Halloween or Thanksgiving?
- Candy corn or chocolate?
- Haunted house or pumpkin patch?

Winter

- Snow day or winter break?
- Hot chocolate or apple cider?
- Ice skating or sledding?

Spring

- Flowers or sunshine?
- Spring break trip or staycation?
- Rain boots or flip-flops?

End of Year

- Yearbook signing or class party?
- Field trip or field day?
- Last day excitement or summer nerves?

Would You Rather Prompts

Fun & Light-Hearted Prompts

- Would you rather have pizza every day or never eat pizza again?
- Would you rather be able to teleport or be able to fly?
- Would you rather always be 10 minutes late or always be 20 minutes early?
- Would you rather never use a phone again or never watch TV again?
- Would you rather live in a treehouse or a castle?
- Would you rather have unlimited snacks or unlimited Wi-Fi?
- Would you rather be famous on TikTok or rich and unknown?
- Would you rather be able to talk to animals or speak every language?
- Would you rather always have to whisper or always have to shout?
- Would you rather wear the same outfit every day or never repeat an outfit?

School & Learning Prompts

- Would you rather have no homework ever again or never take a test again?
- Would you rather work alone on a project or always work with a group?
- Would you rather get straight A's and hate school or get B's and love it?
- Would you rather have school start later or end earlier?
- Would you rather write a 5-page paper or give a 10-minute presentation?
- Would you rather go to school year-round or have longer summers?
- Would you rather take math or science every day?
- Would you rather sit in the front of the class or the back?

Real-Life & Preferences

- Would you rather be super organized or super creative?
- Would you rather have a job you love for low pay or a job you dislike for high pay?
- Would you rather be able to drive at 16 or travel the world at 18?
- Would you rather always have great weather or never get sick again?
- Would you rather have unlimited time or unlimited money?
- Would you rather live in a big city or a quiet town?
- Would you rather only be able to eat sweet food or only salty food?
- Would you rather give up your phone or give up your favorite food?

Reflective & Character-Based Prompts

- Would you rather always be honest or always be kind?
- Would you rather keep all your memories or never feel sadness?
- Would you rather be known as smart or funny?
- Would you rather forgive easily or never get hurt?
- Would you rather be the best at something no one knows about or average at something popular?
- Would you rather take a big risk or play it safe?

Imaginative & “Out There” Prompts

- Would you rather live in a video game or in your favorite book?
- Would you rather have a rewind button or a pause button on life?
- Would you rather live 100 years in the future or 100 years in the past?
- Would you rather have super speed or super strength?
- Would you rather control time or read minds?
- Would you rather breathe underwater or fly through the sky?

4 Corner Prompts

General Get-To-Know-You Prompts

1. What do you do to relax?
 - A. Read a book
 - B. Watch TV or YouTube
 - C. Play video games
 - D. Listen to music
2. What's your ideal weekend?
 - A. Outdoors and active
 - B. Sleeping in and relaxing
 - C. Hanging out with friends
 - D. Catching up on hobbies
3. How do you usually spend your time after school?
 - A. Sports or clubs
 - B. Homework and studying
 - C. Gaming or social time
 - D. Resting or alone time
4. What's most important in a friend?
 - A. Loyalty
 - B. Humor
 - C. Honesty
 - D. Shared interests

Pop Culture & Preferences

1. Which would you give up forever?
 - A. Music
 - B. Movies
 - C. Video games
 - D. Social media
2. Pick your dream vacation:
 - A. A beach resort
 - B. A big city adventure
 - C. A mountain cabin
 - D. A theme park
3. Pick a superpower:
 - A. Flying
 - B. Time travel
 - C. Invisibility
 - D. Super speed
4. Choose a type of movie:
 - A. Comedy
 - B. Action
 - C. Horror
 - D. Drama

School & Learning Style Prompts

1. How do you prefer to learn?
 - A. Watching or listening
 - B. Reading or writing
 - C. Hands-on activities
 - D. Group discussion
2. Favorite subject in school:
 - A. Math
 - B. English or Language Arts
 - C. Science
 - D. Social Studies
3. What kind of assignments do you prefer?
 - A. Projects
 - B. Presentations
 - C. Worksheets
 - D. Class discussions
4. What's your ideal classroom atmosphere?
 - A. Quiet and focused
 - B. Relaxed with background music
 - C. Energetic and interactive
 - D. Structured and organized

Character, Identity, & Values Prompts

1. What motivates you the most?
 - A. Recognition or rewards
 - B. Helping others
 - C. Self-improvement
 - D. Fun or challenge
2. How do you respond to challenges?
 - A. I push through no matter what
 - B. I ask for help
 - C. I need time to regroup
 - D. I get discouraged but keep trying
3. How do you prefer to express yourself?
 - A. Through writing
 - B. Through art or music
 - C. Through conversation
 - D. Through action and doing

Emoji Check-In Prompts

1. **How are you feeling today?** Ask students to choose an emoji that represents their mood.

Examples: 😊 😐 😞 😓 😫 😎 😬 😡 🥳 😩

2. **What emoji matches your energy right now?**

Great for morning classes, after lunch, or before tests.

Examples: ⚡ 😫 ☕ 🧠 🌀 🎯

3. **Pick an emoji that describes your personality. Why?**

Examples: 🎨 (creative), 🎯 (focused), 🧩 (quiet thinker), 🐱 (independent)

4. **Choose an emoji that shows how you respond to stress.**

Great for social-emotional learning discussions.

Examples: 😬 😫 😐 🧘 🏃 🎮

5. **What emoji describes how you learn best?**

Encourages metacognition.

Examples: 🧠 📚 🎧 🖋️ 🎮 🎨

6. **What emoji describes how you're feeling about the upcoming weekend?**

Examples: 🛌 🎉 🧺 🎮 🕒 😬 😫 😎

7. **Which emoji represents how you felt about today's lesson or activity?**

Examples: 🥳 😐 😐 😊 😎 😓 🏆

8. **If you could send one emoji to your future self, what would it be and why?**

Examples: 🚀 ❤️ 🔥 💡 💪 🧘 ✨

9. **Which emoji would your best friend use to describe you?**

Examples: 😂 🎨 🦋 🐝 💬 😐 🧠

10. **If you could be teletransported to anywhere in the world right now, where do you want to be?**

Example: 🏄 🌵 🦁 🍷 🍹 🎆 🌴 🌊

11. **Use emoji/pictures from pop culture or trends that your students are into. E.g., On a scale of spongebob, how are you feeling today?**





About Search Institute

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