

## What I Am Curious About

Exploring Ideas Expands Possibilities

### Description

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Participants use a beach ball with predetermined categories to generate thought-provoking ideas and get to know each other.

### Objective

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- Build and strengthen relationships among participants
- Build and strengthen relationships among participants and leaders
- Deepen understanding of the element of Expand Possibilities

### Connecting with the Framework

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Expanding Possibilities focuses on connecting people with new ideas, people, places and experiences. This activity prompts participants to generate new ideas about things they want to learn more about and how they might connect each other with new resources.

### Planning and Preparation

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 **Participants:** Up to 30 participants divided into groups of 8-10

 **Materials:**

- Beach balls (1 for each group of 5-8 participants)
- ALTERNATIVE TO BEACH BALLS: Dice and a list of categories (1 list/die for each group)
- Poster paper (you could also write on a whiteboard or keep notes in a notebook)

 **Time:** 30 minutes

 **Set up:**

For each section of the beach ball, choose one of the suggested categories below and write it on that section with permanent marker. (You can pick different categories that specifically fit your community. If you decide to use dice instead of beach balls, print a list of categories for each team.)

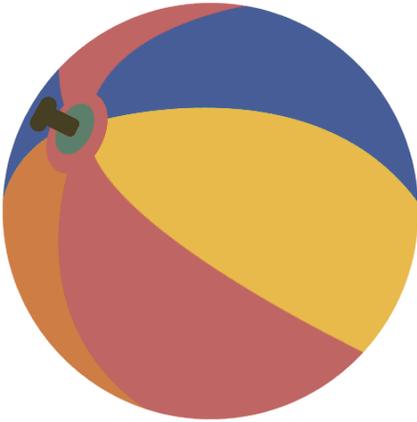
- Music/Arts
- Sports
- Cultures, religion, spirituality, or philosophy
- School subject
- Technology
- Science
- Social media
- Government/politics
- Careers
- Family
- Food
- Popular culture
- current events



EXPAND  
POSSIBILITIES

### Facilitator Notes:

- This activity can be as serious or silly as you choose to make it, and it can also be tailored to specific goals or focus areas for your group. For example, if you are working with a group of young people who are beginning to think about what they will do after high school, consider choosing categories that might get them thinking about their future options (i.e. college, career, areas of study).



### Facilitator Instructions

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1. If participants have been introduced to the Developmental Relationships Framework, let them know that through this activity we will be practicing the element of Expand Possibilities. Remind them that expanding possibilities is about connecting others with new ideas, people, places, and experiences. Let them know they will be expanding each other's possibilities today by coming up with things they are curious to know more about.
2. Form groups of no more than 10 people each. Have groups stand in a circle facing each other.
3. Toss the beach ball to one participant in each circle. When they catch it, ask them to find the category closest to their right thumb. (If you are using dice as an alternative to the beach ball, participants should roll the dice, and the number they roll will correspond to a category on the list). Tell the participant they should share one thing they are curious about in that category. It can be serious or funny. As the facilitator, you can provide an example. (For instance, if the category is "social media," you might say you are curious how people decide to present themselves online vs. in person.) If the person can't think of anything in the category of their right thumb, have them think of something from the category closest to the left thumb. Then they toss the ball to another participant. Write down the ideas participants share or have a volunteer write them down so the group can refer to them later.
4. Tell participants that they need to think of an idea that hasn't been said before when it's their turn. Go around several times so many ideas come up (10-15 minutes). If you're in a classroom or a space with a wall, write them on a whiteboard or a poster where participants can see them. If you're outside, write the ideas in a notebook and share back with the group.

5. Have participants pick one idea that they are curious about and interested in discussing more. (It can be an idea they shared in the activity or an idea someone else shared that they are also interested in.)
6. Ask participants to find a partner and discuss their questions. As time allows, switch partners several times.

### Reflect

Discuss these questions as a large group:

- What ideas came up that you would be most curious to know more about?
- Did someone want to learn about something you already know about? How can you connect them to what they want to learn about?
  - Does anyone have any resources like books, websites or even people you know that could help someone in this group learn more about what they are curious about?
- What are some different ways we can learn about the things we are interested in?
- What might be important about getting out of our comfort zone and learning new things? Meeting new people? Having different experiences?

### Taking Action (optional)

Ask participants to follow up on something they were curious about and share out what they learned next time you meet as a group.

### Putting It Into Practice

The previous two activities have ideas for putting sparks into practice. If you want to go big, you could organize a field trip, bring in an expert on the subject from your community, or introduce individuals in your group to people who have influence related to their area of interest.