



12+



30 min



4+

6

Where Are You From?



To equip youth with thoughtful and inclusive practices in social settings



Ella goes to school in the suburbs of Odense and a new classmate Louis just started in their class. In the break they end up sitting next to each other and Ella wants to take the opportunity to get to know Louis a little better.

Where are you from?

Right, but I mean, where are you from?

Right, but where are you really from?

I went to Munkebjergskolen before I started here

Eh? I live in Odense...



Louis is born in Denmark and gets these questions a lot and it makes him sad.



Civil Connections
Building robust communities



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Group questions

Ask the participants the following questions:

- What do you think Ella wonders about when she wants to know where Louis actually come from?
- Why do you think Ella wants to talk about it?
- Why do you think that these questions make Louis sad?



Evaluation

- How can we get to know new friends without making assumptions on who they are?
- How do we make everyone feel included?

Context for facilitator

We naturally categorize people and things to make sense of the world quickly. While this helps with simple tasks, it can lead to assumptions and stereotypes when we try to understand others. For example, asking someone, "Where are you from?" might seem harmless, but it can feel like categorizing and insinuating that you don't belong here, especially for people from non-majority backgrounds.



This question can carry assumptions about who "belongs" in a place like Denmark, often linking Danish identity to whiteness. For those asked, the question might bring up personal joys or painful experiences, like migration or discrimination. It's important to respect any answer given—whether someone says they're from another country, another city, or just the next room—without making assumptions based on stereotypes. Or even better, keep the question to yourself and ask more about who the person is, interests and so on. Maybe the question will be answered in time in another context.

