



Problems & Conflict Resolution

Materials:

- Worksheet

Brainstorm

Think about the last conflict you were involved in. What was the issue? How did you solve it?

Discuss

Call on student volunteers to share their responses. Continue the discussion and elicit from students information about the process and steps they went through to try to resolve the conflict. Ask questions such as: What was the conflict about? Who was the conflict with? What solutions did you come up with? Did the conflict get resolved?

Dive in!

In this lesson, we are going to be talking about conflict resolution. The SCOPE-IT strategy is one way to find solutions to conflicts. Remind students that they have learned about the SCOPE-IT strategy in a previous lesson and call students' attention to the SCOPE-IT poster and ask a student volunteer to read the steps aloud.

Activity

Before using any conflict resolution process, we first have to make sure to identify precisely what the conflict is. Once we've taken that important first step, we can then identify potential solutions to solve the conflict. During the solution identification process, we also have to consider any obstacles that we might encounter along the way. Let's try it. Provide each student with a copy of the worksheet and then together complete the first scenario. Next, have students work together in pairs or small groups to complete scenario two. If time permits, call on student volunteers to share their responses.

Reflect

To wrap up the lesson, ask students the reflection questions verbally: Has there ever been a time when you've been grateful for a conflict? For example, maybe a conflict helped you develop a new understanding about something or maybe you made a new friend as a result? Discuss as time permits.



High School

Optional Home Connection → Encourage students to practice the SCOPE-IT Strategy at home.

Professional Development

Are there ways you can authentically incorporate conflict resolution into your classroom community?

Interdisciplinary

Engineering design challenges are a great way to provide students with an opportunity to hone their conflict resolution skills. A crucial part of the design process is problem solving with team members so their project is successful. If time allows, students can engage in one of the engineering design challenges listed below. These challenges are flexible in both timeline and materials. Teachers can set specific limits for the challenges based on their schedule and the needs of their students, and they can use materials that are readily available.

- Build race cars using upcycled household materials such as food boxes, soda bottle caps, etc.
- Construct a boat that holds the greatest number of pennies without sinking.
- Design a device to protect an egg from breaking when dropped from a predetermined height.
- Construct the tallest tower possible using pasta (or toothpicks or popsicle sticks) and marshmallows.
- Use a website simulation tool to simulate the spread of a disease.

For additional ideas, visit: www.teachengineering.org.