

Trash Troop: tackling trash together!

Who Are Scientists?

Drawing and Collaborating Activity

Goal

Gauge the understanding of the students of what it means to be a scientist and what they think a scientist looks like.

Introduction

Students have preconceived notions of what scientists look like based on what the media and pop culture show them. This exercise can help students understand scientists come from diverse backgrounds and don't all wear white lab coats and that they too can be scientists.

Supplies

- 3' x 5' flip chart paper
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Markers

Procedure

1. Break the students up into groups of 4-5 in order to encourage collaboration.
2. Instruct students to talk amongst themselves and come up with ideas of what scientists look like.
3. After discussing for 5-10 minutes, hand out flip chart paper and pencils/pens/markers and instruct the students to draw a scientist and label the different components.
4. Have each group present to the rest of the class and explain what they drew and why they included each of the components.
5. Have a discussion to address the different drawings, including differences and similarities between the groups.
6. Conduct this activity at the start and end of the program to assess changes in perceptions and science identity.

Discussion

1. Was there any drawing that stuck out?
2. What is missing from the drawings?
3. Is anyone surprised by what was drawn?
4. What do all of the groups' drawing have in common?

References

Draw a Scientist

<https://www.calacademy.org/educators/lesson-plans/draw-a-scientist>