



Explanation:

A kick-off activity is a whole-group activity where students will be introduced to the theme of the new cycle. Students will be able to express their creativity as they brainstorm the types of connections they would like to make with other and within themselves throughout our cycle theme, Connections.

Materials:

- Twine
- Push pins
- Example chain link (partial)
- Construction paper
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers

Procedure:

1. Directions will be given in circle.
 - a. Introduce the theme, Connections. Ask students symbols or artifacts that represent connection. (2 minutes to write down ideas)
 - b. Open discussion of ideas the students have written down.
 - c. Introduce the construction paper. Tell students they will be working independently to create something that will be connected to the other creations once everyone is finished.
 - d. Explain to students they will cut 4 two-inch strips from the construction paper supplied. On two strips of paper, students will write connections they want to make with some of their classmates. On the other two strips, students will write connections they want to make within themselves during this cycle of study.

2. Allow 5-10 minutes to work. Play instrumental music in the background.
3. Come back to circle. All students will hand their strips to the teacher. The teacher will read all the strips aloud, allowing for anonymity. Discuss the importance of a kick-off activity and discuss the AOP questions.
4. Students work as a group to assemble the chain link and hang it on the wall.

AOP Questions:

1. How does this activity relate or “connect” to our theme of Connections?
2. What did you find challenging about this activity?
3. What did you find enjoyable about this activity?
4. How can activities like these help us build connections and relationships with our peers and communities?