

Inspire! Ice Breakers & Openers



LearningChange

Activity: **Morph**

Overview

Morph gives your group an excuse to get crazy and have some fun. The goal of this non-elimination game is for everyone to morph from a chirping bird, to a monkey, and finally to a rock star. With little friendly competition, participants continuously move up and down the chain between bird and rock star.

Props

- None.

Instructions

- Introduce the three motions and sounds of "Morph."
- The first is the arm-flapping and chirping bird. The second is the armpit scratching and oohing monkey. The third is the disco-like impersonation of a rock star.
- The goal of the game is for each participant to morph from the bird to the monkey to the rock star as quickly as possible, and then remain a rock star as long possible.
- Everyone begins as a bird. Birds pair up with other birds and begin the morph challenge.
- Two birds face each other and place their hands behind their backs. On the count of three both birds reveal any number of fingers in front of them.
- The first bird to accurately add the total number of fingers shown by the pair morphs into a monkey. The other person remains a bird.
- The monkey goes on to face other monkeys, and the bird goes on to face other birds.
- When two monkeys face-off, the first to count all fingers morphs in to a rock star, while the other slides down the scale, back to a bird.
- When two rock stars face-off, the winner remains a rock star, while the other player becomes a monkey again.

Only birds can face-off with birds, monkeys with monkeys and rock stars with rock stars.

Safety

Remind the group to be cautious not to bump into those around them while they are waddling bird-like, swaggering monkey-like, or walking rock star-like around the room.

Variations

Add or substitute any number of motions and sounds to the game. A popular one is "The Immortal." This is the highest position one can attain, and play is slightly different. If you add the immortal status, people who becoming immortal can never morph back down, and they can choose to play anyone at any level. If an immortal loses, he or she simply folds his or her arms and laughs deeply. The exciting part about immortal status is that it can be used for good to help other players morph up the chain. Throwing a game to a bird morphs the bird but has no effect on the immortal. The flip side is someone can also use the immortal powers to keep people from advancing. Interesting conversations emerge from this unique twist to the game.

With younger children whose skills are not yet up to the quick addition, substitute rock-paper-scissors or any other easy activity.