

Session 2

Crossing Divides

Key learning

Pupils explore how assumptions can divide us and how curiosity about unknown stories can enable understanding.



Before the session

You will need:

- Slides for this session, with sound
- Dictionaries (or devices with internet access)
- A copy of the *Varmints* book
- Drawing paper
- A3/A4 card
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers or paints
- Sticky tack or pegs

Notes

Story

Be Curious (Community)

Notes



Song

Begin the session by playing the song *Hey, hey, hey!* by iSingPop.

Explore vocabulary

Put “varmint” on the board in an interesting font.

Varmint

In pairs, have the children look up the word “varmint” in the dictionary.

Ask them to discuss what a varmint is and what it might look like based on the definition.

Encourage pupils to consider the language and vocabulary used to describe the varmint and how it might be represented physically.



Children’s literature

Without showing the book’s cover, display the first page with the definition of a varmint. Discuss how this adds to their initial thoughts.

Space

Be Present (Embrace)

Notes



Activity

Drawing the varmint

Ask pupils to draw their own interpretation of a varmint based on their thoughts and ideas.

Display the drawings or place them on desks around your classroom and get your class to take a gallery walk, where pupils observe each other's work.

Ask:

- What do these drawings tell us about varmints?
- How does this help us understand them better?





Activity

Varmints outbreak

Notes

Discussion

Explain that there has been a local and national outbreak of varmints. Split your pupils into small groups for discussion – you may want to take your class outside for a walk and talk discussion time. Ask the groups to discuss how public awareness campaigns help inform people and keep them safe, and how to create an effective awareness campaign about the varmint outbreak.

When the pupils have finished their discussions, share real world examples such as:

- COVID-19 awareness campaigns – teaching hygiene and safety measures.
- Anti-littering campaigns – encouraging people to care for the environment.
- Bike safety campaigns – promoting helmet use and road safety.
- Road safety campaigns – emphasising safe crossing and seatbelt use.

Posters and placards

Pupils work individually, in pairs, or in groups to create their own campaign posters/placards. Emphasise clarity, impact, and how effectively their posters communicate important information. Encourage pupils to consider:

- What key information should a campaign include?
- How can we communicate it clearly?

Sanctuary

Reimagine (Power)

Notes



Bible passage

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others."

Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

This verse encourages us to care not just about ourselves, but about those around us. When we share helpful information and support one another, we can build a stronger, safer, and more loving community.



Reflection

You may want to read this reflection aloud to your pupils.

It's important to stay curious about what's happening in our local community. When we take the time to learn about the events, people, and issues around us, we can better understand and appreciate our neighbours. Being curious helps us see the challenges and opportunities that affect everyone. By asking questions and seeking to understand, we can find ways to contribute positively and make a difference in our community. Let's stay curious, engaged, and open to learning from those around us.



Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for the community we live in.
Fill our hearts with curiosity and a desire
to learn more about those around us.
Help us to see the needs and joys of our
neighbours and to find ways to support
and uplift one another.

Amen.

 **Notes**



End of session 2

difference.