

Snakes and Ladders - Honesty

EXPLANATION:

Honesty and integrity are important attributes for everyone. A classroom made version of Snakes and Ladders challenges students to explore versions of truth by posing challenging questions.

YEAR LEVELS: Years 4–6

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole group discussion, individual creations of questions and small group game play

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 30–40 mins

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

English: Sequence of content F–6

Strand: Language

- Evaluative language – How language is used to express opinions and make evaluative judgments about people, places, things and texts
- Language for social interactions – How language used for different formal and informal social interactions is influenced by the purpose and audience

See also Personal and Social Capability learning continuum sub elements:

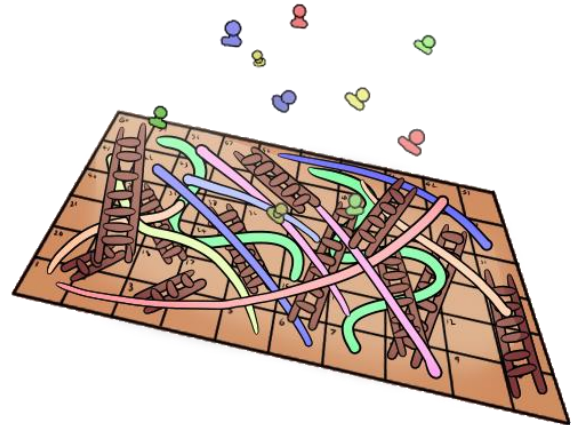
- Communicate effectively
- Understand themselves as learners
- Work independently and show initiative
- Appreciate diverse perspectives.

SCOPE OF TASK:

A major component of honesty is not telling lies. But honesty means more than not lying. A more complete definition of honesty includes refraining from doing things that are morally wrong. If you have to hide what you are doing because you will get into trouble, you are probably not being honest. Therefore, honesty is about speaking and acting truthfully.

1. Activate students' prior knowledge about what honesty is. Ask students to define what honesty is. Ask a student to scribe students' responses on the board. Questions to prompt students' responses could include:

- What is being honest?
- Is being truthful the same thing?
- Is it OK to be dishonest?
- Are there other words that describe honesty?
- How do you feel after you have been dishonest?
- How do you feel if you know someone has been dishonest with you?



2. Inform the students that there can be many answers to questions – honest responses and dishonest answers or lies. Give some examples:

- You are playing a game with a group of friends. You see one friend cheat so that they can beat the other. Do you: a) tell your friend that they are not playing fairly, or b) say nothing?
- You see your Dad drop \$10 and you pick it up and keep it. Your Dad asks if you have seen the \$10. Do you: a) say 'no', or b) tell him you found it?

3. Ask the students to share some scenarios which focus on a dilemma where you must consider how you respond honestly.

4. Tell the students that you are going to make a class version of the game Snakes and Ladders. The students are going to write some questions that have an honest or dishonest answer. Answers determine whether the player has to go up a ladder, or down a snake.

5. Every student gets to make a challenging question to contribute to the deck of questions. Encourage the students to think diversely about scenarios that matter to them. They can use their experiences and values to inform their questions. Depending on the context of the classroom, questions could explore bullying, cheating, friendships, social media, fighting etc. Another example:

- Your friends think it's funny to call a classmate by a swear word. Do you: a) join your friends in the name calling to make your friends laugh, or b) tell your friends that you feel it is mean and that you are going to report the swearing?

6. Students can write their scenario questions (which can be anonymous) on pieces of card to be used in the Snakes and Ladders class game. As a whole group model game playing using the standard rules and the new game cards. Remember up a snake for an honest answer and down the ladder for a dishonest answer. Then place the game in a quiet part of the room.
7. Encourage students to play the game using the 'classroom-made' questions when they have free time
8. During the week check in with the students to see how they felt about the questions – are they challenging their thinking?
9. Students can add questions to the game any time they wish!

RESOURCES:

- Cards to write questions
- Game of Snakes and Ladders
- Dice
- Snakes and Ladders game rules can be googled if students do not know how to play the game.