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PREFACE

Perk your students' interest with 180 icebreakers that cover everything from body snatchers to brain food, fables to flights, and predators to pyramids. Whether you are a teacher or a parent, you will find that these thought-provoking vignettes will increase your communication with your students. They can be used to encourage parent/child communication at home, reinforce homeschooling, or promote discussion in the classroom. As these facts lead to discussion, your students will strengthen their higher-order thinking skills while they develop an interest in the fascinating world around them. They will also learn to discuss and support personal opinions while developing springboards to investigation and communication.

Each icebreaker includes an intriguing factoid, a point to ponder, and a project to pursue. Incorporating Williams' and Bloom's taxonomies, the icebreakers address each of the intelligences and the six levels of thinking. Students are challenged to stretch their imaginations and their minds as they think of solutions to many problems such as how to reduce junk mail, save the rain forest, and encourage recycling. They use their creative abilities to write acrostics about social issues, empathise with the people on the *Titanic*, and design original artwork. These activities will promote independent thinking and will help students succeed in school and in life.

Use an icebreaker as an early morning classroom warmup, as a jump start for family dinner discussions, or as an independent project for a homeschooler to investigate and then discuss with the rest of the family. However it is utilised, *Icebreakers* will forever change the answer to the question, "What did you learn in school today?"

Acrostically Speaking _____ ICEBREAKER

1

An acrostic can be one of the most creative forms of poetry. It provides the poet with a structure for creating a poem dedicated to a specific subject and/or conveying a message of sentiment in a poetic vein. It was a favourite form of poetry used by the ancient Roman, Hebrew, and Greek cultures. The acrostic is usually unrhymed and the first letters of the lines when read vertically should spell out a word, phrase, or sentence related to the poem's subject.

Point to Ponder

Writing helps us to see what we think. How does this form of poetry help or hinder you from writing what you think?

Project to Pursue

Use a topic related to a social issue of concern to you (respect for diversity, peace, prejudice, democracy, antiviolence, etc.) to create an original acrostic.

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Aeroplanes: The Birds of The Sky _____ ICEBREAKER

2

The world's largest commercial aeroplane is the Boeing 747, often referred to as the jumbo jet. It is approximately 70 metres long and 20 metres high with four engines, eighteen wheels, and 500 passenger seats. It weighs 356 tonnes. The Boeing 747 can reach a speed of 1000 kilometres per hour at an altitude of 13,100 metres. In order to take off it needs a runway nearly 3.5 kilometres long. The first 747 was built in the 1960s and the first flight of a 747 took place in 1969.

Point to Ponder

It has been said that if God wanted people to fly, He would have given them wings. How do you feel about this statement?

Project to Pursue

Compute the length and height of the 747 in centimetres. Do the same for the altitude of 13,100 metres. Finally, compute the total distance a 747 at an altitude of 13,100 metres could fly in twenty-four hours if it didn't have to stop for refuelling.

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Allowances as a Form of Income _____ ICEBREAKER

3

Income is the amount of money that a business or a person receives for doing work, selling a product, or providing a service. A person who has a job will receive wages or a salary, which are forms of income. Allowances are a form of income that kids often receive for doing work at home. Another word for income is revenue.

Point to Ponder

Think about these questions. What is the purpose and value of earning an allowance? How should the size of an allowance be determined and what type of work should be performed in order to earn an allowance? What other sources might a teenager have for earning money?

Project to Pursue

Think of several different businesses that kids could open and operate in order to generate income for themselves. Write down several possibilities and a brief description for each one. Try to be creative and resourceful in your ideas. How about a tutoring service, a pet care service, or a biscuit baking/delivery service? Develop a booklet of your suggestions and distribute it to interested students who might enjoy becoming entrepreneurs.

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The Aloha State _____ ICEBREAKER

4

The beautiful state of Hawaii was the fiftieth state to be admitted to the United States of America. Hawaii is actually composed of a string of islands that were formed by volcanic eruptions that left a surface of hard lava worn down over the years to form exotic black beaches. The exotic foods, beautiful beaches, warm tropical breezes, and diverse population make Hawaii a tourist destination for people from all over the world.

Point to Ponder

Plan a ten-day holiday for two to be given away as a prize by the Hawaiian Tourists Association. Include activities and recreational and cultural opportunities suitable for people of any age.

Project to Pursue

1. Taking into account air travel, hotels, ground transportation, fees for beaches, events, and food, what is your best estimate of the value of this prize?
2. If you won the prize, who would you select to go with you? Why did you choose this person?

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