

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Differences and Similarities



**Introduction:** The world is full of differences, and this is especially true in the United States. There are few other countries where so many people come from so many diverse backgrounds to live, work and play together. Much of the strength of our country comes from our diversity. Diversity can best be described in terms of differences in others, such as race, gender, age, language, disability, culture, geographic origin, religion, ethnic group and national origin. In order to better understand the differences in others, it is important to define a few terms.

- **Race** is a biological concept, it defines groups of human beings based on a set of genetically transmitted characteristics, such as color. Race refers primarily to physical characteristics.
- **Culture** is the total way of life of a group of people. It is a set of rules by which people live. These rules can include laws, policies, customs, habits, behavioral guidelines and etiquette. Culture is usually passed on by older members of the culture.
- **Ethnicity** is sharing a strong sense of identify with a particular religious, racial or national group.

The ability to relate well to all types of people will be an essential skill in the diverse workforce of the future. Employees will need to become more effective in working with peers, clients, patients, customers, suppliers, and others who are different from themselves.

The purpose of this activity is to help you understand that while people around you share some differences they also share some similarities with you.

### Directions:

1. Spend a few minutes recording your own responses to the diversity areas in the second column.
2. Find a partner and place his/her name in a column. Interview one another and place the responses in the appropriate column.
3. Repeat this with three more partners.
4. Analyze the responses of your partners and be prepared to discuss differences and similarities with the class. How can these differences make a group working together stronger? How can you accommodate the diversity of people in a group setting?

### Diversity Chart

Diversity Area	Name:	Name:	Name:	Name:	Name:
Ethnicity or Culture					
Family Size					
Leisure Time Activities					
Reading Preferences					
Food Preferences					
Job Interests					
Gender					
Language Spoken in the Home					
Height					
Groups You Belong To					
Birth Order					
Outgoing/Shy					
Place of birth					