

Big Ideas in Science

How to do it:

Tell students that they'll mix and mingle with one another. Their goal is to use the information on their slips of paper to determine today's Big Idea in Science (in this case, that the ocean impacts many aspects of life on Earth).

- 1 Distribute one slip to each student.
- 2 Students mix and mingle. As they do, they read the information on their slip to one another, discuss it, and then try to figure out the Big Idea.
- 3 After a few minutes, signal them to come back to their spots.
- 4 Invite a few students to share what they think the Big Idea is.
- 5 Follow up with open-ended questions: "What clues helped you figure out the Big Idea?" "What most surprised you about the ocean's impact on Earth?"

VARIATION

- Use this structure to introduce and reinforce other Big Ideas related to science content.

EXTENDING THE SCIENCE LEARNING AFTER MORNING MEETING

- Invite students to make up their own Big Idea activity for a subsequent Morning Meeting or as a warm-up or review activity for a science class.

Science Content:

Earth's systems and interactions, roles of water on Earth

Note: This activity is easily adapted for any science content.

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

Earth and Space Sciences—
Earth's systems

Science & Engineering Practices:

Engaging in argument from evidence; obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Crosscutting Concepts:

Systems and system models; energy and matter; stability and change

Materials Needed:

One slip of paper for each student with a statement about the ocean. (Some can be repeated.) For example:

Many different organisms live here.

Climate is influenced by this.

Land is shaped by this.

Most of Earth's water is here.

Vocabulary:

Ecosystem, organism, climate