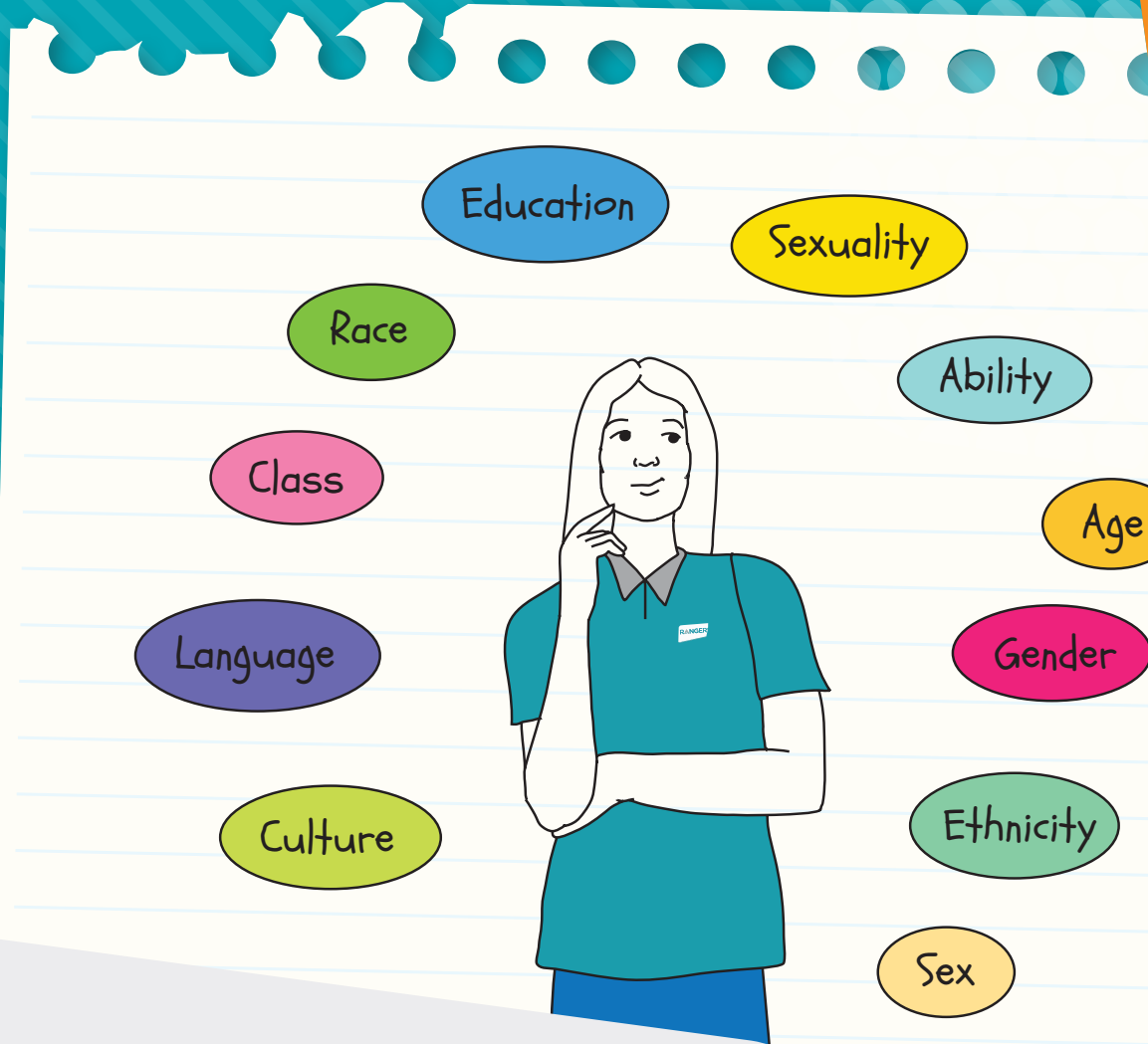


# Intersectional identities



Better together



30 mins



Challenge yourself

## Aim of activity

Clear your mind – it's time to reflect. Think about how you define the different parts of your identity.

## What you'll get out of it

- Reflect on your personal identity.
- Explore your perceptions of other people's identities.
- Find out what intersectionality means.

## What you'll need

- Paper
- Pens
- Envelopes, 1 per girl
- Counters or wrapped sweets (optional)





## What to do

**1** What does the word identity mean to you? Is it a single thing, or do you think you could have lots of identities?

**2** Think about what represents your identity. It could be your gender, religion, age or first language; adjectives to describe your personality or beliefs; or your favourite hobbies. Write down as many or as few as you want.

**3** Which parts of your identity are most important to you? You've got 100 points. Spread your points across your identity traits, giving more points to your most important ones. Think about the perspective you're answering from. Do you think differently about parts of your identity depending on the situation? Do you think differently about your identity when you're at school compared to when you're in the street walking home?

## Try it this way

You could use counters or sweets to represent your points.

**4** Get into small groups. Create your own fictional pen portrait. Take a look at the sentence starters below, and fill in information about your person. You could add some more sentences, or multiple responses to each statement. Some of these answers may be similar to what you like too, but remember that your person is fictional. Once you're done, jot down the identities you think your person thinks about, and distribute 100 points or counters.

### Pen portraits

- I am
- My religion is
- My favourite
- After school I like to
- I define my ethnicity as
- A cause that's really important to me is

**5** Swap your portrait with another group and think about their identities. Jot them down and distribute your points. Did you make the same assumptions about identity as the other group?

For some people, parts of their identity may result in them being discriminated against. **Intersectionality** is when someone suffers lots of discrimination because their identity overlaps several minority groups. For example, if a person is black, disabled and transgender, they might experience discrimination based on their race, disability and gender identity.

**6** What parts of a person's identity might others discriminate against? What could that discrimination look like? Call out your ideas.

**7** What could we do together to stand up against discrimination? Could you be a group of allies? Being an ally means being willing to act with and for others to end discrimination and create equality. Chat about what you could do to be an ally group for your local community.

Understanding your identity will help you not only better understand yourself, but others too. It can also help you find community – for example, joining an LGBT+ youth group.

## Take it further

Put your paper in an envelope, seal it and write today's date on it. Keep it safe and revisit this activity again next year. See how much more you understand your identity!