

A group of diverse students in a hallway are participating in an ice breaker activity. They are standing in a line, and many of them are forming heart shapes with their hands. The students are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual clothing. The background shows a brick wall and school lockers. The overall atmosphere is positive and engaged.

# Ice Breaker Bonanza!

**Building Rapport, Having Fun, and Introducing  
STEAM Concepts**

# Agenda

Introductions

*Ice Breaker: Names*

Tweens: Who are they?

*Ice Breaker: The Colorado Wind Blows*

Strategies

*Ice Breaker: Biggest Fan*

*Ice Breaker: Introducing STEAM Concepts*

# Introductions

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**STAR**★net



*Facilitating a lesson about water ecology with 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Wyoming*

# Introductions

Turn to your neighbor and share:

- 1) Name/location/position
- 2) Share a favorite memory you have of the STEAM Equity project

OR something that interests you about STEAM in general





A stack of several name tags. The top tag is red with a white horizontal band. The text 'Hello' is printed in large white letters on the red background, and 'my name is' is printed in smaller white letters below it. The rest of the tag is white. The stack is slightly offset to the right, showing the edges of the tags underneath.

**Hello**  
my name is

# Poll Question

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Who are tweens?

- a. No one knows
- b. Ages 10-14
- c. Ages 8-12
- d. Ages 9-13



Who are  
tweens?

"Preteen"

Merriam-  
[webster.com/dictionary](http://webster.com/dictionary)



# Who are tweens?

"A tween is no longer a little child, but not quite a teenager. They are in between the two age groups and their behavior and emotions reflect that."

[Verywellfamily.com](http://Verywellfamily.com)

A large yellow triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.

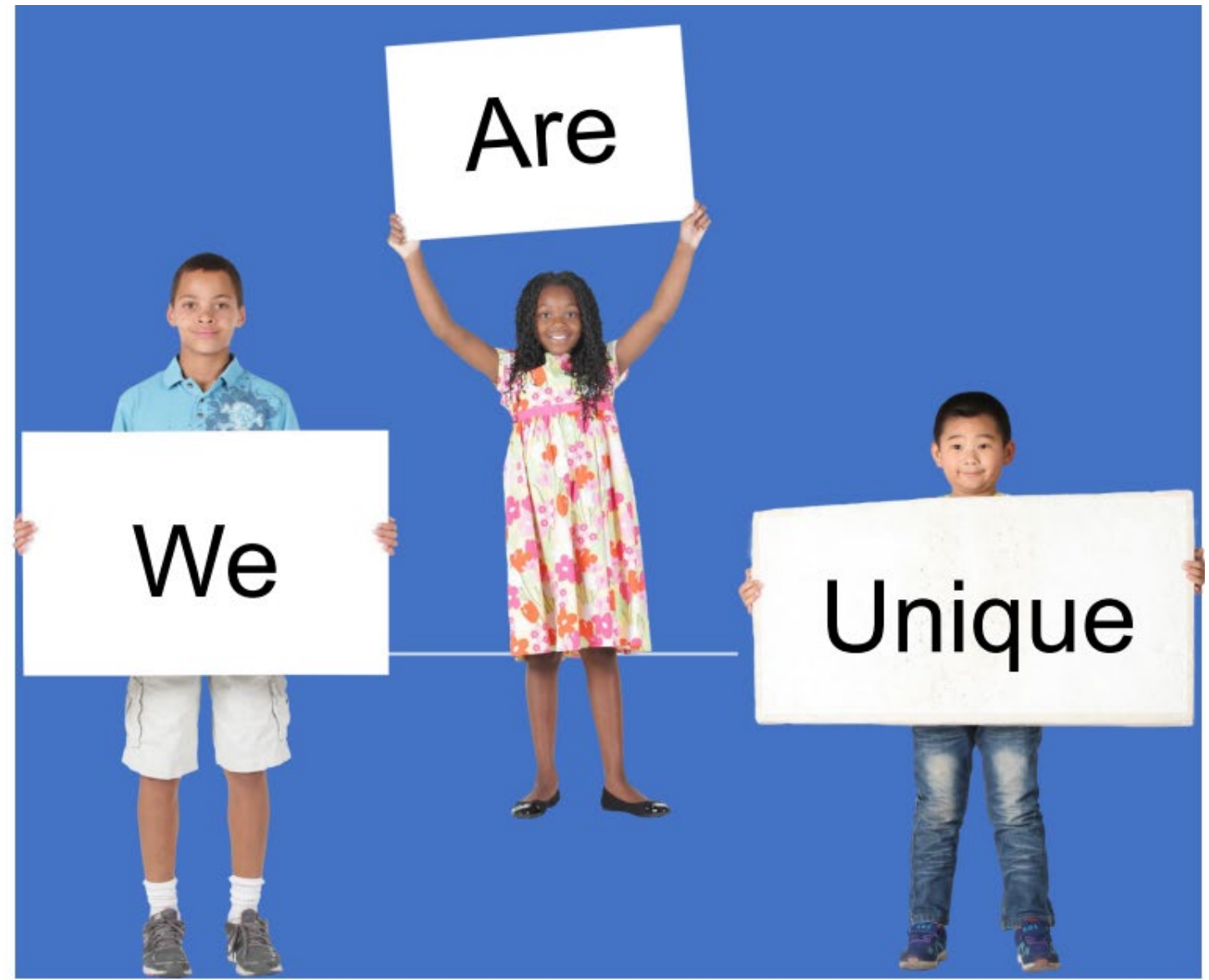



# Who are tweens?

Tweens are the age group too old for the library play area but not quite or barely old enough for the teen space.



What's  
"normal"?





It's real  
to me.

# Understanding Tweens

- Changing physically, cognitively, and emotionally
- Please adults vs. Developing independence
- Importance of peers
- Big emotions
- Developing sense of self



Display kid-like behaviors and like to play!







# Why are ice breakers important for tweens?

- Energizing and engaging
- Build trust and rapport
- Ease anxiety
- Encourage communication
- Assessing group dynamics
- Create a positive experience and break down barriers



A person is skydiving over a sunset landscape. The sky is a mix of dark blue and orange, with a bright sun on the left. Below the clouds, a winding river is visible. The skydiver is in the center, with their parachute open.

Let's try another!

The Colorado wind blows for anyone who likes to...

# Be mindful of...

- Time constraints
- Relevance
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Self-Consciousness
- Ineffectiveness

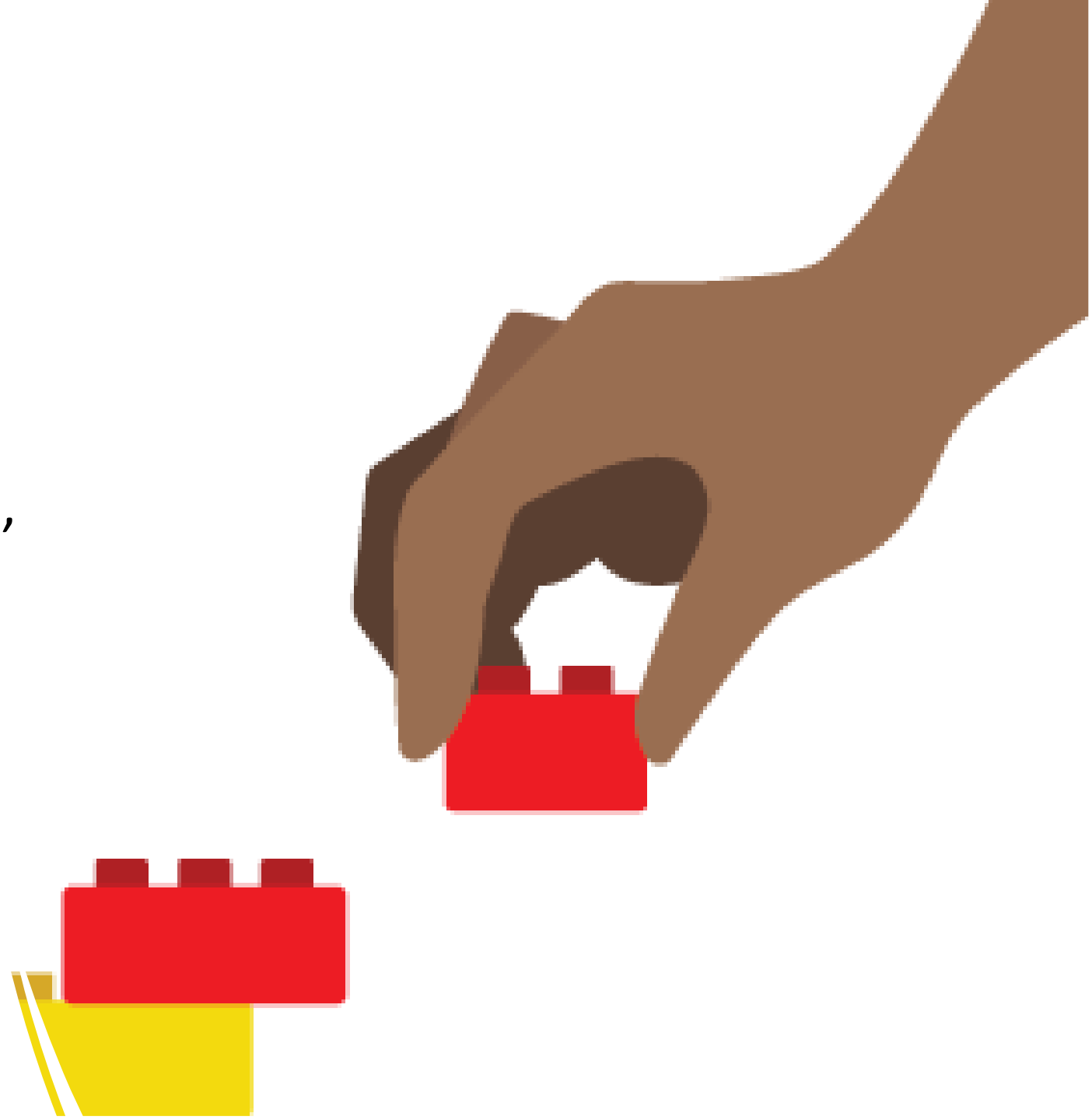




# Be intentional with your Ice Breakers

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- Get to know each other (names, hobbies)
- Set the stage for learning experiences
- Warm up creativity
- Enhance social skills and foster teamwork
- Networking for professionals





Energize!

Biggest Fan

# Introducing STEAM Concepts

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Visit the three  
"passive"  
icebreakers and  
put a sticker on the  
option you most  
relate to right now





# Icebreaker: What Water Quality Indicator Are You Today?



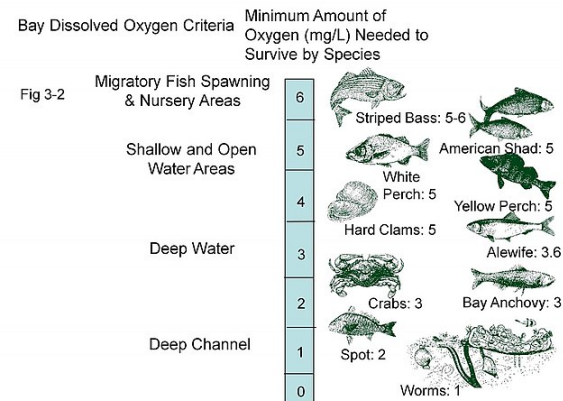
**Turbidity**  
 (The relative clarity of water)  
 Unclear, scattered  
 Clear and light



**Temperature**  
 Hot, cold, maybe just chillin'



**pH**  
 (The acidity of water)  
 Sharp, caustic, abrasive  
 Relatively neutral



**Dissolved oxygen**  
 Ready to support others  
 Dank, cold, and inhospitable

**The Land**  
Steady, constant,  
creating home



**The Water**  
Powerful, ready to make  
change



**The Plants**  
Supportive, precious

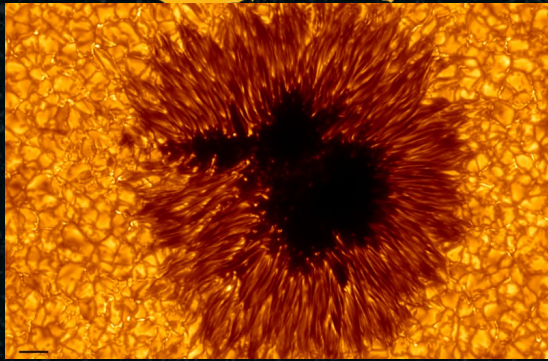


**The Animals**  
Top of the food web

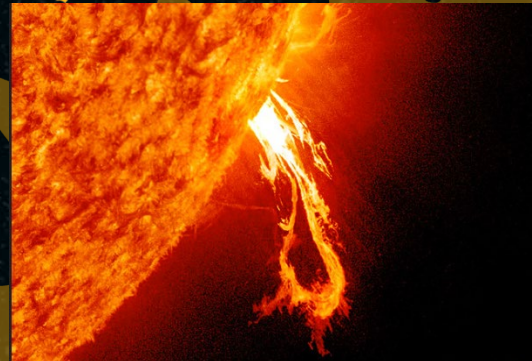




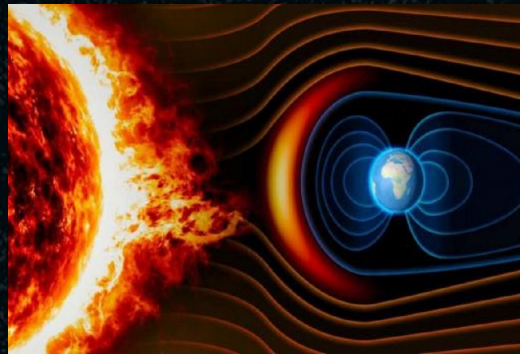
# Icebreaker: What solar feature do you feel like today?



1. Sunspot: (relatively) cool, calm, and collected; embracing change and transition



2. Solar Prominence: showy and bright, while also feeling grounded and connected



3. Coronal Mass Ejection: powerful and influential; ready to mess things up!



4. Sun's Corona: Gassy and Sassy. You won't let anybody's shadow dim your light.