

**Intended for Grades:** 4-6 **Estimated Time:** 30-45 min.

**Lesson Title:** HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Lesson Purpose: Students will:**

- \* Learn about each other
- \* Complete a task without one of their constantly used senses
- \* Provide an opportunity to reinforce observation skills
- \* Help students learn how to work together when there is a challenge

**Materials & Preparation:**

- \* GLO 1 Self-Directed Learner Poster (with `Ōlelo No`eau; see below)
- \* Place tape on the floor, long enough for all students to stand on it in a single line

**Background Information:**

The Hawaiian way of learning is to quietly listen and observe with full focus. Some kids in this day and age do not know how to be quiet, watch, listen, and learn. This lesson provides participants with this experience.

Youth today also need to learn how to work together when there are differences and/or obstacles. Providing them with guidance and support as they develop these life skills is important for youngsters evolving into more independent learners.

**Steps:**

1. Discuss the Hawaiian way of learning, which consists of listening and observing, not talking and constantly asking questions. A student was expected to gain some knowledge first before asking a question about something they tried to figure out.

2. Transition to the `Ōlelo No`eau and Game by talking about the importance of listening and also that, sometimes more important was the ability to observe. Discuss the meaning of GLO #1-Self Directed Learner and the `Ōlelo No`eau that goes with it:

*Nānā ka maka, hana ka lima.*

The eyes watch and the hands perform.

3. Play the game “Happy Birthday!” using the following instructions:

- Explain to the group that this is a game that involves no talking.
- Have students form a straight line in random order, keeping one foot on the tape.
- Tell students that, without talking or mouthing words (no lip reading), they must create a line that goes from the Oldest Person in front to the Youngest Person in back.
- Instruct students to always stay in contact in some way with the tape on the ground as they adjust their line. Remind participants to only communicate non-verbally.

4. When the students think the line is complete, they shout simultaneously, “Happy Birthday!” The teacher will check if their lineup is correct.

5. Debrief activity by discussing the reflection questions below.

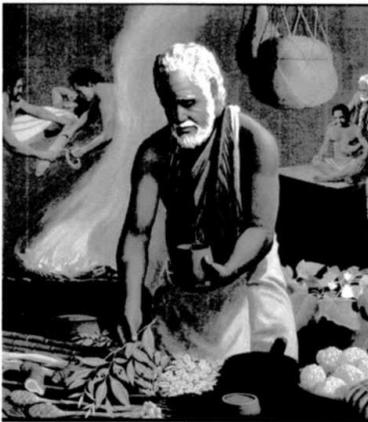
**Reflection Questions:**

What was difficult? What was easy? What worked? What did not work?  
Did anyone take the lead? How did it feel not being able to talk? (*This can also be a chance to talk about the importance of clear and pono verbal communication.*)

**GLO 1**

Self-Directed Learner

## Kuleana Ihola



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Nānā ka maka, hana ka lima.  
*The eyes watch and the hands perform.*

In the days of old, questioning the instructor was rude. The student paid close attention to what was taught. Students learned quickly and were able to perform the task and in turn, teach others.