

Intended for Grades: 3 - 8

Estimated Time: 45-60 minutes

Date: January 24, 2025

LESSON TITLE: STORY OF MY NAME

LESSON PURPOSE: Participants (teacher and students) will:

- Engage in an introduction activity about their name and themselves, with the goal of building connections with one another.
- Interview a parent/’ohana member to learn more about their name
- Decide what they would like to share with others regarding things they enjoy doing and something they would like to do better
- Practice their speaking and listening skills as they present their or a fellow student’s "Story of My Name" script

MATERIALS & PREPARATION:

- "Story of my Name" worksheet (page 2)
- "Story of my Name" script (page 3)
- "Story of my Name" pair share worksheet (page 4)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Building connections between teacher and students, and between students, is valuable. For that reason, we recommend enjoying this lesson at the beginning of the school year.

"The relational part of teaching may very well be its most underrated aspect..." James Ford, the 2015 North Carolina State Teacher of the Year and the program director for the Public School Forum of North Carolina, told Education Week. He added, "Our first job as teachers is to make sure that we learn our students, that we connect with them on a real level, showing respect for their culture and affirming their worthiness to receive the best education possible."

There have been dozens of studies proving the point that when teachers develop positive relationships with their students, it produces both short-term and long-term educational benefits. In order to set the stage for a positive learning space, students not only need to establish a positive connection with their teacher, but also with their class peers. The goal is to help students feel a sense of "belonging" in their class, where it is okay to ask questions, make mistakes, and learn collaboratively.

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

STEPS:

- Have the students (and teacher) start filling out the "Story of My Name" worksheet (page 2) in class, then take it home to be completed with a parent, parents, or adult household member. (If a student does not have access to how they got their name, such as adoption/foster situation, assist by doing a search here: www.meaningofthename.com)
- Have students (and teacher) use the script template (page 3) to finalize the information they would like to share out. If choosing to do a pair share with one student introducing another, use the pair share worksheet (page 4) as a guide
- Take the time to do a fun icebreaker, then have the teacher and students introduce themselves, using their script. (If choosing to do a pair share, one student will introduce another student)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What might be some new understanding you have now about your name?
- 2) What are some things you've learned about your teacher and classmates that make you glad to be with them?

“Story Of My Name” - Worksheet

The Story of Your Name tells about where you come from, what your family dreamed for you, and who you are. Find a family member and a good time to talk story (respecting your story-teller’s time, tasks, mood).

Write the answers below, as well as your thoughts on what you would like to share about what you enjoy and would like to do better.

All your names: _____
 First Name Middle Name(s) Last Name

Nickname or other names you go by: _____

HOW was I named or **WHO** named me?

WHY was I given this name?

WHAT is the meaning of my name(s)?

WHERE does our family name come from?

Some things I enjoy doing are?

Something I want to do better is

(for example: be kinder, be more respectful of things and/or others, be honest)

“Story Of My Name” - My Script

‘O _____ ko‘u inoa.
First Name Middle Name(s) Last Name

Sometimes I go by _____
Nickname or other name

_____ gave me my name.

This is how I was named: _____

I was given this name because: _____

This is the meaning of my name(s): _____

My family name comes from: _____

Some things I enjoy doing are: _____

Something I want to do better is: _____

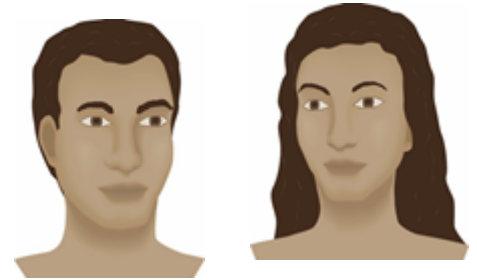
PAIR SHARE:

"Story of My Name" Thinking from the Na'au (Na'au Maui - The spirit within)

(Inspired by Auntie Puanani Burgess, Kumu Hawai'i)

FIRST

- Collect a partner's name story by asking:
What is the story of your name(s)?
- The story will contain information about where the person comes from and what their family dreams for them.
- It tells, "Who am I?"



THEN

- Introduce your partner by sharing the story with your class

Your partner can share:

- * How they were named or who gave them their name(s)
 - * Why they received their names
 - * Who else has their name
 - * What does their names mean
- * How do they feel about their name(s)
 - * Share something special about themselves

Interview worksheet

Partner's NAME(S) _____

What is the story of your names? (All your names)

How were you named? Or who gave you your name?

What are some meanings about your name?

How do you feel about your name(s)?

Share something special about yourself that you would like to share with our class.