

Ice Breaker: Where in the World?

Three Clues to Your Favorite Place in the World

By Deb Peterson, About.com Guide

Technology and transportation in the modern world have given us the opportunity to learn so much more, often first hand, about the rest of the world. If you haven't had the privilege of global traveling, you may have experienced the thrill of conversing with folks from around the world online or working side-by-side with them in your industry. The world becomes a smaller place the more we get to know each other.

When you have a gathering of people from various countries, this ice breaker is a breeze, but it's also fun when participants are all from the same place and know each other well. Everyone is capable of dreams that cross borders.

To make this ice breaker kinetic, require that one of the three clues be a physical motion (think PictionaryTM). For example, skiing, golfing, painting, fishing, etc.

Ideal Size

Up to 30. Divide larger groups.

Use For

Introductions in the classroom or at a meeting, especially when you have an international group of participants or an international topic to discuss.

Time Needed

30 minutes, depending on the size of the group.

Materials Needed

A globe or world map would be a nice prop, but nothing is necessary.

Instructions

Give people a minute or two to think of three clues that describe, but don't give away, either the country they are from (if different from the one you're in) or their favorite foreign place they have visited or dream of visiting. When ready, each person gives their name and their three clues, and the rest of the group guesses where in the world they are describing. Give each person a minute or two to explain what they like best about their favorite place in the world. Start with yourself so they have an example.

If you want students on their feet and moving, require that one clue be a physical motion like swimming, hiking, golfing, etc. This clue may include verbal help or not. You choose.

Example

Hi, my name is Deb. One of my favorite places in the world is tropical, has a beautiful body of water you can climb, and is near a popular cruise port. (I am physically imitating climbing.)

After guessing is finished: One of my favorite places in the world is Dunn's River Falls near Ocho Rios, Jamaica. We stopped there on a Caribbean cruise and had the marvelous opportunity of climbing the falls. You start at sea level and can climb 600 feet gradually up the river, swimming in pools, standing under small falls, sliding down smooth rocks. It's a beautiful and fantastic experience.

Debriefing

Debrief by asking for reactions from the group and asking if anybody has a question for another participant. You will have listened carefully to the introductions. If somebody has chosen a place related to your topic, use that place as a transition to your first lecture or activity.

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