

IT'S GREAT TO CREATE

Purpose

To help students understand that when they create something, they own it. We want to respect other creators by not taking their work without permission.

Key concepts

- When we create something, we own it, and we get to decide if we want to share it.
- Playing fair is an important part of creating art: We ask for permission before we use other people's creative work.
- We also get to decide HOW it will be shared and used. (This idea is covered in more depth in the Grade 2 lesson.)



Grades: Appropriate for Grade 1

Time required: 15 - 20 minutes

Preparation

Equipment needed:

- Computer/TV screen to play video.
- A video, slideshow, or digital photograph that you created.

Notes to Presenter:

- Download video for this lesson at www.iKeepSafe.org/COPYRIGHT and www.copyrightinformation.org/iKeepSafe.

Attention Activity:

Show an example of your own digital art (video, slideshow, photograph) to the students. Explain why you made it or why it is important to you. Discuss the following questions:

What kinds of creations have you made that can be shared digitally or online? [pictures, song, video, story, essay, slideshow, etc.] How did you share it with other people? How did it make you feel to share it?

Lesson

REVIEW (OPTIONAL): If time permits, you may want to show the Kindergarten video and have a brief discussion: "Look what the kindergarteners are learning about. You already know it!"

Kindergarten: "RESPECT THE PERSON: Give Credit"—Two friends learn the importance of respecting names on artwork (attribution).

"He's copying me!"

With class participation:

TEACHER: I'm going to invent a new character. What kind of character could it be? [Boy, girl, monster, alien, animal, sea creature, etc. Choose one.]

Great. My character has a superpower _____. [Take suggestions. Encourage originality with comments like, "Wow, that's so creative!"]

What should I name him? *[Take suggestions. Allow children to invent crazy names.]*
Allow guessing to get kids thinking of many options. Do a quick drawing of your character.

TEACHER: Now you all get to be the creators—it’s your turn to invent the coolest, most awesome character you can think of. Would anyone like to draw his/her character on the white board? This is just for fun, but first I’ll need you to run a quick errand for me.

[Select two students who are outgoing and will be able to enjoy this activity. Send the students on a quick (30 seconds) errand before they start drawing. Example: “Please run this note to the library.” When the students leave, tell the class you want them to all copy one of the pictures being drawn on the white board. Remind the class to copy the artwork without telling the volunteer artists.]

[Students return.] I’ll set my timer for 5 minutes.

[When the timer rings, invite the students to come together to share their characters.]

ASK: Who wants to share first?

[Let this scenario play out until the children figure out that some in the class have copied him/her.]

ASK: How did that make you feel to see your idea copied. *[All responses are acceptable: happy that they liked it, mad, frustrated, etc.]*

ASK: Did you give anyone permission to copy your idea? *[Take responses.]*

This kind of thing happens all the time to kids and grown ups, and it’s not fun to have someone take what you made and use it for themselves without asking first.

But, when someone asks for permission to use your work, it means you have a chance to see new art made from your art. That can be really exciting. I’m going to play a short video. As you watch the video, think about how you would feel if this situation happened to you. What would you do?

PLAY VIDEO (45 seconds): “It’s Great to Create” [Download here: www.iKeepSafe.org/COPYRIGHT]

VIDEO SUMMARY: Two friends discover the fun and benefit of creative collaboration.

DISCUSSION

What did you think about that situation? What was going on? Did the girl have permission to use the dragon drawing? *[Yes.]* What would you do in that situation?

What if she had wanted to add a ballerina tutu to the dragon? Did she have permission to do that? *[Invite discussion.]* Do you think the boy would have liked that? *[Yes. No. Maybe . . .]*

An important part of playing fair is asking the creator—the real owner—permission before we use what they created.

Wrap-Up

We all love to create new things—art, music, movies, paper creations, structures, even buildings! It’s great to create—as long as we aren’t stealing other people’s work. We show respect for other artists and their work when we get permission before we use their work. This is an important part of copyright. Sharing can be exciting and helpful and nice. But taking something without asking is mean.

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