

Seven Blind Mice – What Do They See?

- Perspective

EXPLANATION:

Based on an Indian fable, *Seven Blind Mice* details the perspectives of six mice as they try to determine what is standing by the pond. It is only when the seventh mouse explores all the parts that they are able to decide what the object is! This activity requires students to understand how presenting an issue from various vantage points adds multiple layers of meaning—understanding other perspectives.

GRADE LEVELS: 1–3

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole class

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 40–60 minutes

CASEL CORE COMPETENCY: SOCIAL AWARENESS

- Taking others' perspectives
- Showing concern for the feelings of others
- You can learn more about the CASEL framework [here](#)

SCOPE OF TASK:

1. Activate students' prior knowledge by playing a game of "Feely Bag." Place objects in a bag, and take turns to blindfold a student—ask them to feel an object and describe what they feel (but cannot see). This game encourages thinking skills, including perception, prediction, and analysis. Ask questions:
 - How did they work out what the objects are?
 - How did they know? (Are they relying on previous experiences and knowledge?)
2. Introduce/outline the story of *Seven Blind Mice*. Tell the students that they will need to pay close attention to what each character (mouse) believed they saw (their perspective) beside the pond.
3. Read aloud *Seven Blind Mice*, or listen to the story narrated by Bianca Chatfield, who played netball—a game similar to basketball—for Australia, competing in Commonwealth Games and World Cups:



4. Stop after each mouse's description of the object (pillar, snake, spear, cliff, fan, rope), and have students tell you what **they** think the object standing beside the pond is.

Red Mouse	Green Mouse	Yellow Mouse	Purple Mouse	Orange Mouse	Blue Mouse
Pillar	Snake	Spear	Cliff	Fan	Rope

Questions could include:

- What did the final white mouse think the object was?
- How did the white mouse determine what the object was?
- What did he use to decide it was an elephant?
- Were the other mice wrong when they described what they saw? Why or why not?

5. Discuss how each of the seven mice had a different point of view, even though they were talking about the same "strange something" in their pond—an elephant. Ask students:
 - Why might each of the first six mice have had a different perspective?
 - What part of the elephant was each mouse describing?
6. Draw out the students' understanding of the idea that different people have different viewpoints. Examples of concepts to mention could include:
 - Consideration of the whole picture and the combining of everyone's ideas
 - Part of a whole story
 - Two or more sides to every story
7. The activity can be completed with a discussion as to why it is important to consider the perspectives of others.
 - Have you and a friend ever seen the same thing in different ways? Describe.
 - How do you feel when someone doesn't agree with what you see?
 - Are other people's perspectives as important as ours?
 - Why do people have different perspectives?
 - Why is it important to try to consider the whole picture?

RESOURCES:

Young, E. (2002). *Seven Blind Mice*, Puffin Books.

Online video: "The Kindness Curriculum- Perspective with Bianca Chatfield," sourced from https://youtu.be/mYglMKt_hHw

