



What is a  
gang and  
why do  
people join  
them?

## Take it further:

### THINK

What curiosity questions can you ask?

*e.g. What is a gang? Have you ever been in a gang, maybe in your school or local area? How did it feel to belong to a group or gang? Why do people like to join groups or gangs?*

### FEEL

How might different people feel about this?

*e.g. How does it feel to belong to a group or a gang? Why is this feeling important? How does it feel when you are left out of a group or a gang? Have you ever done something because other people in your group or gang told you so? How did this feel?*

### CONNECT

What links can you start to make?

*e.g. What links are there between animal groups and human groups or gangs? What sort of gangs exist in the animal kingdom, for example with wolves or chimpanzees? What might it mean to 'follow the herd' or practice 'pack mentality'?*



## Activity ideas:

1. Were you in a gang when you were little, for example the 'sand pit' gang, or the 'skipping rope' gang? You might have had 'rules' for your gang, a secret hiding place or a special password like the children in stories!  
Take a piece of paper and in the middle write down this question – **Why do people join gangs?** - and then make a spider diagram of all of the reasons that you can think of. For example: To feel special | to belong | to have friends etc.
2. What does it mean to belong?  
Take a blank piece of paper and find an old magazine or newspaper. Thinking about the word BELONGING create a collage of words, images, shapes, colours and ideas that you reflect on when thinking about belonging. You can also paint a picture or write a poem if you prefer.  
*NB: This is a creative task which means there is no right or wrong way to respond to this activity.*
3. As we get older, the word 'gang' is often connected to negative behaviour and negative stereotypes, even though being part of a group or community is good for our society and important for our own wellbeing.  
On a piece of paper, write down the word GANG at the top and then make two columns, one called POSITIVE and one NEGATIVE and write down all of the positive or negative words, ideas and associations that you have or connect to the word gang.

*\*USE THE **THINKER'S GUIDE** TO HELP YOU*

What other activities could you do?

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