



What is a gang  
and why do  
people join  
them?

## TAKE IT FURTHER:

### THINK

What curiosity questions can you ask?

*e.g. What do you think of when you hear the word gang? What does it mean to be part of a gang? Is a gang the same as a group? Why is gang often seen as negative whilst community or belonging seen as positive? What is pack mentality?*

### 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 to be left out of a group or a gang? Is belonging a human need? What emotions does belonging bring up in you?*

### CONNECT

What links can you start to make?

*e.g. What is the link between being in a gang or group and our early development in human tribes? What connections are there between human gang behaviours and those of chimps or other animals? Why is being connected with other people important for our wellbeing?*

EXPLORING SOCIETY | Gangs



## RESOURCES:



### THINGS TO READ



#### [Gangs are good for society](#)

(Article | *The Guardian*)

#### [The need to belong](#)

(Article | *Very Well Mind*)

#### [Hip hop planet](#)

(Article | *James McBride - National Geographic Magazine*)



### THINGS TO WATCH



#### [Question the herd](#)

(3 minute video | *National Geographic*)

#### [Pack mentality and survival](#)

(7 minute video | *BBC Earth*)



### THINGS TO LISTEN TO



#### [UK Street gangs](#)

(30 minute podcast | *Bird Podcast*)

#### [The Dad gang](#)

(42 minute podcast | *We Need More*)



### THINGS TO DO



#### [Gangs Childline](#)

(Advice and support | *Childline*)

#### [Building community](#)

(Activities and ideas | *Edutopia*)



### THINGS TO INSPIRE



#### [Explore our Gangs topic](#)

(A home-learning topic for 5-18 year olds | *ThoughtBox*)

EXPLORING SOCIETY | **Gangs**



## Activity ideas:

1. The word 'gang' has become connected to negativity and stereotypes which are spread in popular culture. And yet being in a gang, group or community is actually a very positive part of our societies 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.
2. Have you ever heard of the phrase 'pack mentality'? What do you think this means?  
Take a look at this short video on pack mentality and then discuss the questions below: [Question the herd](#)  
Have you ever done something just because everyone else around you was doing it? Why do you think you did this? Why do you think lots of people fall into this space of 'following the herd or group'?
3. What makes you feel you 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. There is no right or wrong way to respond to this activity.

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

What other activities could you do?

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