

# Question guide: I Belong!

This question guide is for teachers engaging in the *I Belong!* project. You may choose to explore some or all of the questions below with your students. You are also welcome to come up with some of your own.

## BELONGING

### What does it mean to 'belong'?

- To be accepted, wanted, needed, seen, to fit in, to experience a sense of connection to a place or group of people
- The desire to belong is innate
- Belonging offers people a sense of safety and security, wellbeing and identity

### How is belonging expressed?

- Through acts of caring, recognition, acceptance, service and cooperation
- How do I know that I belong?
  - To a group of people?
  - To a place?

### What communities or groups do I belong to in Quebec society?

- What are some of the benefits of belonging to multiple communities/groups?
- What are some of the challenges?

### How does the language(s) I speak influence my sense of belonging in Quebec society?

- At home?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my community?
- In my province?

### Where do I feel a strong sense of belonging? Why?

- At home?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my neighbourhood?
- In my community
- In my province?

### Where do I feel as though I don't fit in/belong? Why?

- At home?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my neighbourhood?
- In my community
- In my province?

### Where do I want to belong?

- How do I get there?

### How do I (or can I) help others to feel like they belong in Quebec society?

### How can others help me to feel like I belong in Quebec society?

## SUGGESTED TIMING

### DIGITAL STORYTELLING

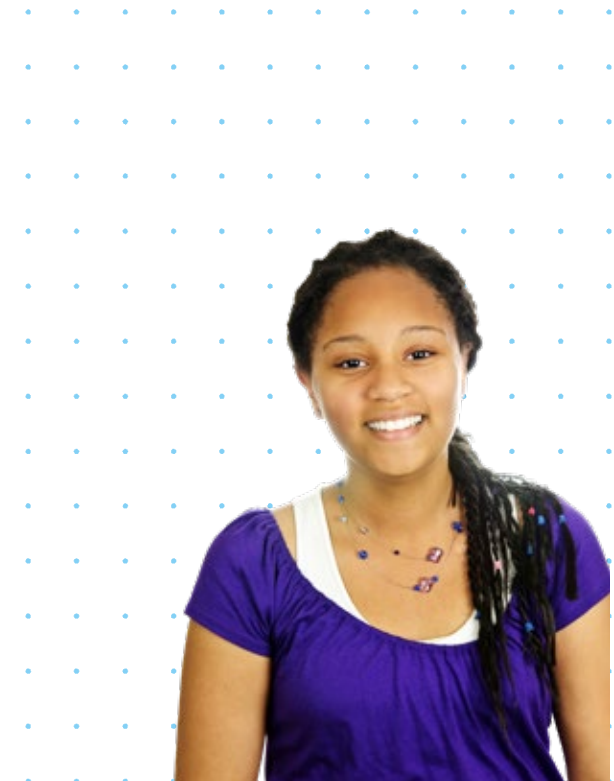
- > During storyboarding process  
(Hands on Media Education will integrate select questions)

### PERFORMANCE & VISUAL ARTS

- > Prior to performance
- > In process with local artist

### COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING (CSL)

- > Inventory and Investigation (Step 1)



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## COMMUNITY, SERVICE & BELONGING

- A community is a group of people that....
- I feel like I belong to a community when...
- When people experience a strong sense of belonging to their community, it's because they share...
- I show the people in my community that I care about them by...
- I feel cared for by the members of my community when...
- I would like to serve my community by....
- I can help members of my community to feel like they belong by...

## IDENTITY & BELONGING

### What is 'identity'?

- "Characteristics or identifiers that make us unique or known, or that we are grouped by. These could include race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation." Edutopia

### Who am I?

- What are some of my defining characteristics or identifiers?
- What makes something a 'defining' characteristic?
- What characteristics are visible? Which ones are invisible?
- What identifiers have I chosen?
- What identifiers have I inherited?

### How has my upbringing influenced my sense of self?

- Family values
- Religion
- Languages spoken
- Societal influences & constructs
  - Cultural norms
  - Views on gender/sex, race, ethnicity

### What is the relationship between symbols and identity (e.g., flags)?

- What symbols, if any, have a special meaning to me?
- Why?

### Which aspects of my identity, if any, are often misunderstood in Quebec society (i.e., understood differently by 'insiders' and 'outsiders')?

- What are some of the stereotypes I encounter?
- What could be done to enhance people's understanding of this aspect of my identity?

### What aspects of my identity, if any, are challenging to hold at the same time in Quebec society (e.g., identifying as both gay and Catholic, or both English and French)?

- How do I manage this tension?

### How does my identity (languages spoken/ gender/sexuality/race/ethnicity/class/religion/ abilities or disabilities) influence my sense of belonging:

- At home?
- Within my larger family?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my community?
- In my province?

### How do I (or can I) help others to feel seen or accepted in Quebec society?

### How can others help me to feel seen or accepted in Quebec society?

- THIS QUESTION GUIDE WAS CREATED BY LEARN'S PROVINCIAL RESOURCE TEAM IN AUGUST, 2020.**
- Sources consulted in the creation of this guide include:
1. *Vital Signs, Community Foundations of Canada* (2015, 2016, 2017)
  2. *Vital Signs: Arts & Belonging, Community Foundations of Canada* (2017)
  3. *Creating an Identity Safe Classroom*, Edutopia (2015)
  4. *Creating a Learning Environment Where all Kids Feel Valued*, Edutopia (2019)
  5. *Belonging as Pedagogical, Practical and Political*, J. McLeod (2018)
  6. *All Students Need Anti-racism Education*, C. Torres (2020)
  7. *Identity in Question*, OpenLearn (2020)
  8. *I Belong! Developing themselves as a member of a community*, Northern Ireland Curriculum (2020)

