# UNIT 1.1 Let each other shine

#### Success Indicators - Youth will:

- realize that there are many things that make them who they are today,
- realize that they have a unique background, history, culture, & personality,
- identify what makes them unique and what it is about them and their background that is most important to them, and
- realize that when different cultures live in harmony, life is richer.

#### Life Skills Practiced

- Accepting Differences
- Self-Esteem
- Communication

# Project Skills Practiced - Youth will:

- examine and reflect on their personal background and culture,
- · share what they have learned about themselves, and
- create a pice of artwork that represents their learning.

## **Activity Description**

Using old CDs, youth will each create an artwork that symbolizes what makes them unique. These artworks will be displayed together in a public place (i.e., school cafeteria, town hall, etc.) to communicate the theme of individual uniqueness and cultural awareness. Youth will view the collective display and consider the value of cultural diversity in society.

### Summing It Up

For processing questions, see page 1 of the Participant Manual.

#### School Standards

For alignment to national and state standards, see page 68.

#### Content and Discussion Points

Each person has a unique identity that makes him special and different from others. During the adolescent years, this sense of identity is being formed<sup>8</sup> – youth begin to truly examine themselves and think about who they are, what they stand for, what their belonging to various groups means.

Developing a positive sense of who you are is an important part of development. It is essential in forming future goals, in developing relationships, and in all aspects of life. Youth who have a positive idea about themselves are also more likely to have positive relationships with others and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.<sup>9</sup>

In developing a sense of identity, youth also need to see themselves as part of a bigger order — part of a society, part of a culture. Similarly, they need to recognize that each culture is unique and that both similarities and differences need to be celebrated. In this activity, encourage youth to think about the different people and institutions that have influenced them, even without their knowing. Encourage youth to think about themselves as part of a bigger community and society. Help them realize that while they are truly unique, they share a lot of things with people in their families, their communities, and the world as a whole.

#### Instructions

**Time needed:** 30 minutes to 1.5 hours **Materials:** Blank or old CDs/DVDs

Yarn or thick string

Glue

Art materials such as personal pictures (don't use originals, bring copies), magazines, fabric swatches, paint, feathers, things from nature, glitter, fabric

paints.

#### (continued)

#### Procedures

- 1. Ask youth to think about what makes them unique. What is it that makes them who they are? Think also about their families, communities, and their country or society.
- Ask youth to each take a CD and decorate the non-shiny side in a way to symbolize who they are.
- 3. Ask youth to create a title for their work.
- 4. Ask each youth to share and explain the CD collage to the larger group.
- After completing the activity, ask youth to complete the Summing It Up questions on page 1 of their Participant Manual.

#### Teaching Strategies

- If you have time before the activity, ask youth to bring some personal memorabilia.
   Make sure that they have permission to use these for the project or that these are only copies or photographs of the real objects.
- The more the merrier! Youth can set up a display and encourage others to create their own CD. Have extra materials available and post the instructions on a wall. As people come to look at the exhibit, youth can invite them to participate.
- Youth can invite members of their families to do the same, or invite people in the community, school, or other setting to participate and send in their CDs to broaden the exhibit.
- The display is more striking when there are more CDs. If you have a small group of
  participants, you might consider inviting other groups (e.g., other classrooms, other
  clubs, etc.) to participate in this activity with you.
- Ask youth to write about the experience. This can be an article for the local newspaper encouraging the public to view the display.
- Go Green! Rather than buying CDs or DVDs for this project, ask people to donate old ones. You can also use cardboard cut-outs with a piece of foil glued on the back.

#### Incorporate Technology

To capture the display, have youth take digital photos. Youth can also alter, enhance, or otherwise format the photos. They can create posters or pamphlets that they can put captions on and distribute to others.

# Create a 4-H Project

- Take artistic photographs of the CDs in various places.
- Create posters about what they have learned.
- · Write essays or articles about the experience.
- Create an audio project wherein youth can record each other's explanations of their creations and edit these to put into a creative recording.