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## *Breaking the Ice: Fun games for your Family Reunion.*

**Just who is that person standing next to you? At the beginning of your family reunion, you may see many unfamiliar faces. Family reunions are ever expanding: people get married, have kids or bring their in-laws. A good way to get to know these new faces is by playing a game or activity to break the ice. Here are a few activities that will help these strangers become family.**

**INTRODUCE ONE ANOTHER.** Divide the members of your family reunion into pairs. Each person talks about him or herself to the other. If you like, you can ask for specific pieces of information. For example, "One thing I am particularly proud of is..." After five minutes, the participants introduce the other person to the rest of the group.

**LET ME DESCRIBE MYSELF.** Have family members write down one or two adjectives describing themselves. Write them on a sticker and place on chest. Have family members find someone with similar or opposite adjectives and talk for five minutes with the other person.

**NO ONE HAS DONE THIS!** Have each person introduce themselves and then state something they have done that they think no one else in the reunion has accomplished. If someone else has also achieved it, they must state something else until he or she finds something that no one else has done.

**FIND SOMEONE.** Each person writes on a blank index card one to three statements, such as favorite color, interest, hobby, or vacations. Pass out cards so everyone gets someone else's card. Have that person find the person with their card and introduce themselves.

**WHO AM I?** Write the name of a celebrity on a piece of paper and stick it on someone else's back. The person tries to guess what name is pinned on his or her by asking yes or no questions to others around the room.

**TRUE, TRUE, FALSE:** Give time for family members to write down two things about themselves that are true, and one thing that is made up. Each person will then share these facts about themselves and the rest of the group has to figure out which statement is false."

**COMIC STRIP CHAOS:** Each family member picks a comic frame out of the large container. After all have chosen one, the participants begin to search for others with the same comic strip sequence. After the participants have found everyone in their group, they must arrange themselves so that the sequence of frames are in order to form the comic strip correctly. Upon completion of sequence, the newly formed group sits down together and introduces themselves.

**COMMON GROUND.** Divide into groups of 4-6 people. Give 5 minutes for family members to write a list of everything they have in common. When time is up, ask each group how many items they have listed. For fun, ask them to announce some of the most interesting items.

**PEOPLE POEMS** Have each family member use the letters of his or her first name to write words that describes themselves. For example, **Dan** could write: **D**aring, **A**dventurous, **N**ice. Family members can then share their descriptions with the group.

**POP QUIZ** Ahead of time, write a series of getting-to-know-you questions on slips of paper – one question to a slip. You can repeat some of the questions. Fold up the slips, and tuck each slip inside a different balloon. Blow up the balloons. Give each family member a balloon, and let them take turns popping their balloons and answering the questions inside.

**BIRTHDAY BUDDY** Have family members mingle in the group and identify the person whose birth date (not year - just month and date) is closest to their own. Find out two things they have in common.



**"FAMILY B-I-N-G-O - LET'S FIND OUT WHO WE ARE-O"**

Each person fills up the board and then matches up the answers with family members. First one to get five across, down or diagonally wins!

<b>Has braids or dreads</b>	<b>Is the same height as you</b>	<b>Knows the words to the "Moving On Up" theme song</b>	<b>Has been married 50 years or longer</b>	<b>Collects something for a hobby</b>
<b>Was born the same month as you</b>	<b>Takes care of a sick family member or someone else's child</b>	<b>Is over 6 feet tall</b>	<b>Lives in a house with a basement</b>	<b>Had a baby in the last year</b>
<b>Knows how to sing</b>	<b>Is your 2nd or 3rd cousin</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>Lives more than 300 miles from you</b>	<b>Has more than 10 siblings</b>
<b>Got married in the last year</b>	<b>Has been married 3 or more times</b>	<b>Is in college</b>	<b>Is over 70 years old</b>	<b>Graduated with a 4.0 GPA from high school or college</b>
<b>Is under 5 years old</b>	<b>Has a master's or Ph.D</b>	<b>Plays a musical instrument</b>	<b>Has been to more than 5 family reunions</b>	<b>Has served in the military</b>



**GETTING TO KNOW YOU...**

Print these questions and ask family members to talk to 10 or 20 people (depending on the size of the reunion) and find out the following information.:

**Where were you born?**

**How old are you (Or give a range within 5 years, between 20 -25, 26-30, etc.)**

**Who are your parents?**

**Any siblings? If so, names.**

**Where do you live?**

**Who is the oldest person at the reunion that you know?**

**Who is the youngest person at the reunion that you know?**

**What is your profession or where do you work?**

**Are you married or single?**

**Do you have children? - How many? Names of children?**

**Where do you live now?**

**Who is your favorite movie star?**

**What was the last movie you saw?**

**How did you get to the reunion?**

**What is the most distinctive family trait?**

**Do you play sports?**

**What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?**

**Have you visited a foreign country? Where?**

**How many miles did you travel to get to the reunion?**

**What is your favorite song?**