

The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship
Teachers' Workshop
Identity Charts
"Instructions for Teachers"

Strategy #2 (30 Minutes)

On your table you will find information about five historical figures from this period: William Lyon Mackenzie King, Saul Hayes, Greta Fischer, John Freund, and sisters Kitty Salsberg and Ellen Foster. Please divide the table into pairs. Each pair choose one of the options and create an identity chart about this historical figure. We have also provided you with one example of an identity for a historical figure (Mackenzie King), which you will find on the table. You will find below on this sheet an example of an identity chart for an individual student, as well. Please read the rationale and explanation for Identity Charts before you begin.

Follow up activities (will not be done during this workshop): Gallery Walk: Hang identity charts on walls and the students walk by and explore the charts. Use charts as your springboard for discussion on topic.

Rationale

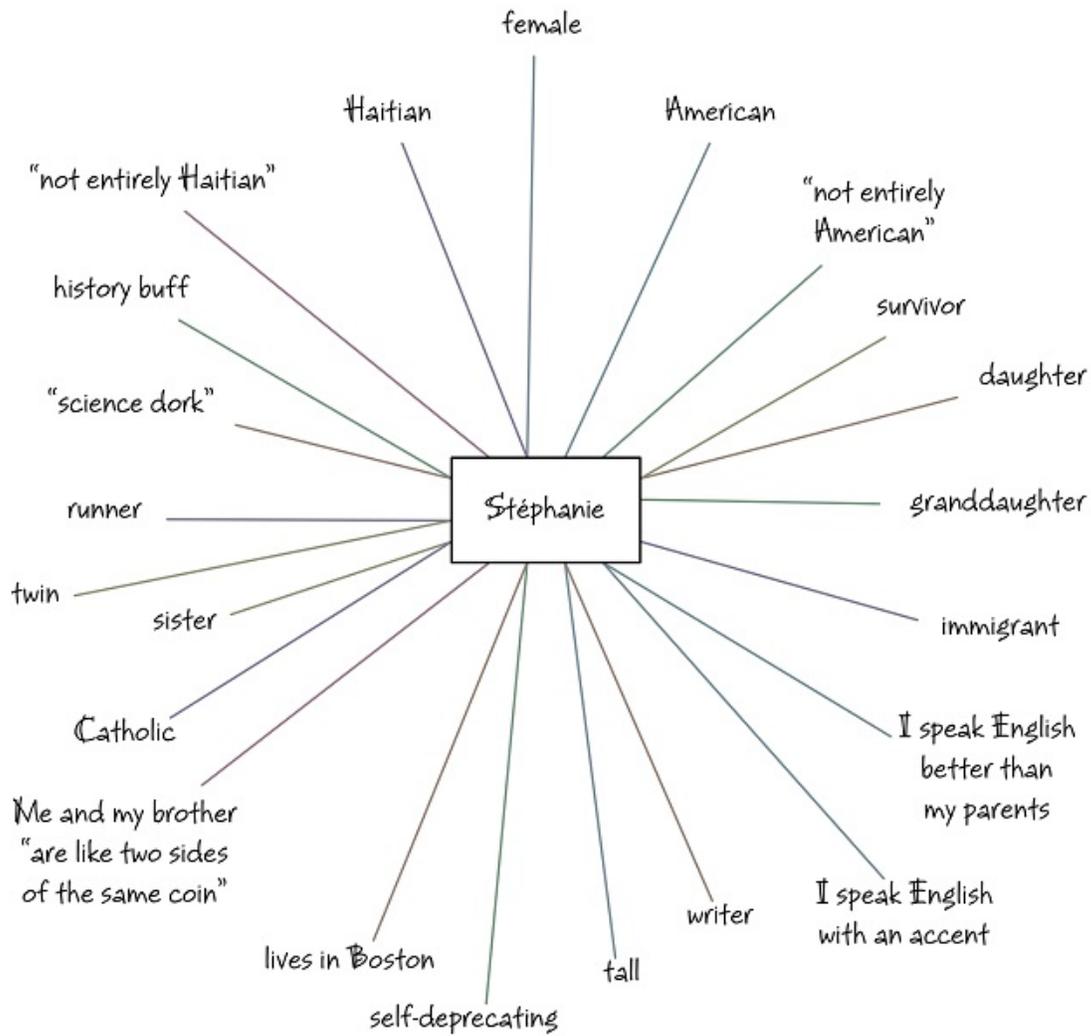
Identity charts are a graphic tool that can help students consider the many factors that shape who we are as individuals and as communities. Use identity charts to deepen students' understanding of themselves, groups, nations, and historical and literary figures. Sharing their own identity charts with peers can help students build relationships and break down stereotypes. In this way, identity charts can be used as an effective classroom community-building tool.

Create Identity Charts for an Individual, Group, or Nation

First, ask students to write the name of the character, figure, group, or nation in the center of a piece of paper. Then students can look through text(s) for evidence that helps them answer the question, "Who is this person/group?" Encourage students to include quotations from the text(s) on their identity charts, as well as their own interpretations of the character or figure based on their reading. Students can complete identity charts individually or in small groups. Alternatively, students could contribute ideas to a class version of an identity chart that you keep on the classroom wall.

Below is an example of an individual identity chart:

The Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship
Teachers' Workshop
Identity Charts
"Instructions for Teachers"



An identity chart is a diagram that individuals fill in with words and phrases they use to describe themselves as well as the labels that society gives them.