



Four Corners

The Four Corners Activity is an interactive teaching strategy that gets students up and moving while encouraging them to express opinions, justify their thinking, and engage in discussion. It's particularly effective in a social studies classroom for exploring controversial issues, historical decisions, or differing perspectives.

How It Works

- **Preparation:**
 - Choose a topic, question, or statement related to the lesson.
 - Create four possible responses (e.g., Agree, Strongly Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree; or four distinct perspectives).
 - Label each corner of the classroom with one of the four responses.
- **Introduction:**
 - Present the statement or question to the class.
 - Example: "The Boston Tea Party was an act of patriotism."
- **Movement:**
 - Students move to the corner that best represents their opinion or perspective.
- **Discussion:**
 - In their chosen corners, students discuss their reasoning with peers.
 - A spokesperson from each group can summarize their group's argument for the class.
- **Reflection:**
 - After the discussion, students can be given the option to move to a different corner if their opinion changes based on what they heard.
 - Follow up with a class-wide discussion or written reflection.

Benefits of Four Corners

- **Engages All Students:** Encourages participation from everyone, even quieter students, by allowing small-group discussion.
- **Fosters Critical Thinking:** Requires students to evaluate their stance and defend it with evidence or reasoning.
- **Explores Multiple Perspectives:** Students hear diverse viewpoints, promoting empathy and understanding.
- **Movement Boosts Energy:** Helps break up the monotony of sitting and keeps students physically active.