



# The Assumption Game

Adapted from the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History,  
Evolutions After School & Sci.Corps Career Ladder Programs.

# Instructions

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Imagine that the world as we know it is coming to an end today. Your small group has been lucky enough to have access to a spaceship and will be among very few survivors. Three of the following ten people will also be able to join your group, and together you will start a whole new civilization. Your group must work together to decide who will join you in this new world and who will not. Talk about why you believe each person should or should not be included.

Hurry! Your spacecraft is taking off soon!



# Potential Citizens of Your New Civilization

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▶ **Maria, 34, Puerto Rican**

- ▶ Seen leaving a large city office building carrying a diaper bag, a shopping bag, and a folder with applications for Medicaid.

▶ **Joseph, 19, Jewish**

- ▶ Seen hanging out on a stoop with several young kids wearing jeans and a leather jacket, holding a small plastic bag with something in it; keeps looking down the street.

▶ **Rodney, 17, African-American**

- ▶ Seen walking across a school playground with a basketball in one arm and a boom box in the other, wearing a sweat suit and Nikes sneakers.

▶ **Lisa, 21, Italian-American**

- ▶ Seen walking into a church building with a book bag over one shoulder; wearing a plain skirt and a sweater.

▶ **Grace, 60, Irish-American**

- ▶ Seen walking past several art galleries on Madison Avenue, dabbing her eyes with a handkerchief and wearing pearls, a pink dress, and high heels.

▶ **Jorge, 28, Dominican**

- ▶ Seen leaving a gym, holding the hand of his lover, wearing camouflage pants, a T-shirt, and Timberland boots.

▶ **Shaniqua, 32, African-American**

- ▶ Seen riding the subway, nodding off to sleep, with several large bags of clothes at her feet; wearing a mini-skirt, ripped black tights, and a denim jacket.

▶ **Wilson, 15, Chinese-American**

- ▶ Seen leaving a newsstand with his arms full of books and a calculator in his pocket; wearing khaki pants and Reebok sneakers.

▶ **Asim, 40, Saudi Arabian**

- ▶ Seen walking hurriedly into a dark alley with an old leather briefcase in his hand; wearing traditional Middle Eastern clothes.

▶ **Janice, 25, Caucasian**

- ▶ Seen standing on a street corner waving at passing cars, wearing tight clothing, lots of makeup, and stiletto heels.



# Reflection

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- ▶ Which 3 people did your group choose?
- ▶ Did you have clear reasons why you chose each person?
- ▶ How did the activity make you feel?
- ▶ What was the point of the activity?
- ▶ Did you change your mind after hearing more about the people you chose?

