

SUPERMARKET SWEEP

Objectives

- Students will explore the anxiety, fight, and scarcity that shopping in the pandemic caused in a safe, fun, and game show way
- Students will create a list of essential items needed to shelter in place
- Students will understand how the pandemic affected life beyond health concerns

Materials needed

- A large open space to move around
- Bag, basket, or other container
- Post-it Notes
- Pens/Pencils

Activity

In the show, Kristina Wong says, “we are all so selfish,” and nowhere was that more evident during the pandemic, than the grocery store. In 2020, few things were as competitive and calculated as grocery shopping.

Today we will be playing a game called Supermarket Sweep! Scattered through the room will be items essential to your safety and comfort. You’ll have 30 seconds to race against the clock and competitors to get the items you need to shelter in place. At the end of the game, we will look at everyone’s carts and vote for who’s house we would want to shelter in place in.

- Divide students into groups of three to four.
- Give each group a bag, some post-it notes and a pen/pencil.
- Task each group with writing a list of things they would want at home during a shelter in place order (write each item on a separate post-it).
- Scatter the post-it notes around the room.
- One person from each group is then tasked with finding items in the “store” to put in their shopping bags. Time limit: 30 seconds.
- Each group will read aloud their post-it notes, and the class (or just the host) will select the winner.

While you watch the play, think about the sacrifices and selflessness of the Aunties. And think about the people in your life that sacrifice for you. Let’s take that feeling and hold onto that energy as we move through the rest of 2023 with generosity.

Lesson Extensions

- Group discussion or writing assignments:
 - What are some ways people spent their time in the early days of the pandemic?
 - Who are the people that helped you through the pandemic?
 - What would the perfect “shelter in place” home have?

Lesson Variations

- If there is limited space, consider a group discussion where students raise their hands to offer ideas – family feud style where the host decides the best answers.
- This activity can also be done as a written assignment where students write down their perfect shopping list in groups and share them anonymously. The class can vote on the best list.