

CONVERSATION CARDS

Why us? America 250 and President Lincoln's Cottage

At President Lincoln's Cottage, we believe in an America that reflects our common humanity, cultivates belonging, and honors the complexity in our nation's history. We are committed to telling more complete stories that capture the full breadth of the American experience and leading our peers and community in doing the same. We're building a 250th commemoration that meets audiences where they are and makes room for both grief and joy at once. Use this resource to cultivate brave ideas in conversation with your family as you, like Lincoln, work to form a more perfect union.

How to use the conversation cards

- Print the cards out (see below for tips) and shuffle them.
- Draw one card at a time and discuss that question with your family or group.
- Take turns drawing a card and talking with each other. Please ensure everyone who wants to speak has a chance to share their point of view.
- We recommend discussing 3-5 cards in one sitting, but please use this resource as best works for you.

Printing instructions

These cards are designed to print smoothly on the [Avery 5392 3"x4" Name Badges](#) template, which is pre-perforated. Insert the name badges into your printer's paper tray and print one-sided. Then, fold along the perforations to separate the cards.

Using regular paper? That works just fine! Print one-sided and then cut along the dotted lines to separate the cards.



International Coalition of
SITES of CONSCIENCE

How old is the oldest person you know? What would you want to ask them about their life?

What's one thing that has changed about America that you like?



When would you choose NOT to belong to a group?

When is a time you felt safe to grieve openly?



What would you like to see change about America in the future?

What do you do if a group that you're part of does something you don't like?



What helps you feel like you belong?



When have you felt left out?



Would you ask a neighbor for help? Why or why not?



What is a place that makes you feel peaceful?



How would you explain America to someone who had never been here?



What, if anything, is too serious to joke about?



What's something that happens in your neighborhood that you want to know more about?



Where do you go when you have something complicated to think about? Why that place?



What are your favorite rituals of celebration?



What's something you need more help with?



Does it take different things for a group to find peace than it does for just one person?



Have you ever learned something important after a bad thing happened to you? What did you learn?



Tell me about something awesome you did. How do you want to celebrate that you did it?



What are some things a leader should do or not do? How can you do this in your life?



When (if ever) is it ok to leave parts of a story out? Does leaving things out count as lying?



Should kids be allowed to vote? Why or why not?



What are some good ways to deal with bad feelings? What are some good ways to share joy?



What questions do you have about people like you, but in the past?

