



LESSON PLAN

The Importance of Helping Others

Topic: **Service Learning/Volunteering**
Subject: **Social Studies**

Grade Level: **Elementary (1st–4th)**
Time: **25 minutes**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will enhance their understanding of the importance of helping others and put into practice what they learn. (*This lesson suggested for April, National Volunteer Month*)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Super Volunteer* video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- "Do-Good Simple Volunteer Ideas" List and "I'm a Volunteer!" Worksheet
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links: www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/elem

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access
- Dedicated bulletin board or poster to display student volunteer efforts

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (5 minutes)

- Teacher-Led Discussion
 - Inform students that April is National Volunteer Month.
 - Discuss the meaning of the word "volunteer": a person who performs a service for someone else. Volunteering can be a big thing (rebuilding homes for people who lost theirs in an earthquake or fire) or a small thing (offering to set the table for dinner).
 - Ask students if they remember an instance when someone—a parent, a teacher, a neighbor or friend—helped them with something. How did that make the student feel?
 - Ask if any student has ever helped someone. What did they do? How did it feel?
 - Explain that people who join the military are volunteering to help their country and other people, sometimes in faraway or dangerous places.
 - Explain that the class will view a video about a boy who was inspired by his father's military service and became a volunteer in his community.

Video (3 minutes)

- Cue and screen the *Super Volunteer* video

Small-Group Work (10 minutes)

- Distribute "Do-Gooder Simple Volunteer Ideas" List and the "I'm a Volunteer!" Worksheet
- Instruct students that:
 - Part of their homework is to perform an act of volunteerism
 - They can select one of the activities on the "Volunteer Ideas" or come up with their own
 - It should be simple – something they can do easily
 - They are to write their name and chosen activity on the "I'm a Volunteer!" Worksheet, and put it in their folder
 - Students have 1 week to complete the activity
 - When completed, students will be able to post their picture on the designated bulletin board/poster

Group Discussion (5 minutes)

- If there is time, students can read aloud their chosen volunteer activity.

From www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org – A Department of Defense website for military youth coping with deployment.

"Do-Good" Simple Volunteer Ideas

Help Out at School

- Offer to erase the chalkboard/whiteboard for your teacher
- Hold the classroom door open for your classmates
- Collect papers, pencils, or other supplies (but ask your teacher what he/she needs first!)
- Pick up some trash in the hallway or on the playground and throw it away
- Let someone else take a turn first

Help Out at Home

- Offer to set the table
- Give your pet food or water without being told
- Help your little brother or sister get dressed or comb his/her hair
- Bring in the mail or newspaper
- Help your mom or dad prepare dinner

Help Out in Your Community

- Give a local business owner a smile and a nice "hello" (being polite is a service)
- Ask a neighbor if they need some help (let your parent know first)
- Do one little thing to make your block cleaner or prettier
- Give away a book, toy, or piece of clothing you don't need (make sure it's okay with your mom or dad)
- Play with a kid who's new or does not have many friends

WORKSHEET

"I'M A VOLUNTEER!"

Directions:

- Write your name and the sentence, "This week I will _____" inside the picture.
(Write your chosen volunteer activity in the blank.)
- Put this page inside your folder
- After you complete the activity, cut out the picture and post it on the bulletin board/poster in the classroom
- Give yourself a hug for a job well done!

