

➤ DEFINING AND PROMOTING VOLUNTEERING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Target Group: **Years 3 to 6**

Australian Curriculum Reference: **Civics and Citizenship**

- + Why people participate within communities and how students can actively participate and contribute (ACHCK003).
- + Identifying groups in the local community and exploring their purpose.
- + Exploring how they could participate in a school or community project, for example, raising money for a local or regional aid project that they have studied, or helping reduce pollution.
- + Discussing the motivations of people who have contributed to communities, for example local community volunteers, leaders and elders.

LESSON SUMMARY

This unit of work is designed for a group of students who come from all stages and years in a Primary setting. It consists of a four week series of activities designed to connect students with the idea of volunteering. Students will understand what it means to volunteer, what they already do as a volunteer (picking up rubbish on the playground, working in the school canteen or perhaps out of school activities such as planting trees for Greening Australia) and where they can go next as a volunteer.

LESSON CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY

In conjunction with this series of lessons, guest speakers will be invited to school assemblies to speak about being a volunteer. They might talk about things like what their roles are, what they do and why they do it.

Lesson 1

Students view *Sesame street - Usher volunteers* at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cysG5M1PFA and then engage in teacher directed discussion exploring the following questions.

- + What is a volunteer?
- + Is volunteering only for some people?
- + What can I do?

Lesson 2

Students will view stimulus material and then discuss a take-home activity (Worksheet 1). They will need to write about or draw a picture of someone in their family or community who volunteers, and describe what that person does and why.

If possible, students will bring in something to illustrate the role their parent, relative or family friend does, for example a whistle for a swim coach, a photo or a drawing etc.

- + Stimulus video: 7 News report on the RSPCA (start 13 seconds into video):
www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4dmSjagHGw

The school will remind students about this take-home activity through morning lines and the school newsletter.

Lesson 3

Students will view stimulus material on Rotary and the earthquake in Nepal, and then share results of their take-home activity with the class through group discussion.

- + Stimulus video: 7 News report on Rotary (start 7.57 minutes into video):
www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ5vvG3znkg

Lesson 4

Refer to the article *40 Ways Kids Can Volunteer* (see *Resources*) and create a group mind map of where students might like to go next as a volunteer – perhaps older students could write and younger students could illustrate.

The group mind map could be displayed in a public place such as the school foyer to facilitate further discussion.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be based on teacher observations of student engagement with the issue of volunteering (at a personal, school and community level) and participation in discussion/s.

RESOURCES

- + Refugee definition (UNHCR website):
www.unhcr.org.au/unhcr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=179&Itemid=54
- + *More Than 65 Years of Post-war Migration*: www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/04fifty.htm
- + Worksheet 2: Organisations That Help Refugees

Other references for the history of migration to Australia

- + Worksheet 1: What is volunteering and who volunteers? Take-home activity to be completed by students, with help from their families, and shared within enrichment groups.

Videos

- + *Sesame street – Usher volunteers* at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cysG5M1PFA
- + 7 News report on the RSPCA (start 13 seconds into video): www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4dmSjagHGw
- + 7 News report on Rotary (start 7.57 minutes into video): www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ5vvG3znkg
- + *40 Ways Kids Can Volunteer, Toddler to Teen*:
www.lauragraceyweldon.com/2013/06/27/40-ways-kids-can-volunteer-toddler-to-teen

WORKSHEET 1

Name _____

What is volunteering and who volunteers?

Write about or draw a picture of someone in your family or community who is a volunteer.

What do they do?

Why do they do it?