

# ➤ WHY VOLUNTEER?

Target Group: **Years 5**

Australian Curriculum Reference: **Health and Physical Education**

- + Explore how participation in outdoor activities supports personal and community health and wellbeing and creates connections to the natural and built environment (ACPPS059).
- + Explore ways in which people can connect with other members of their community through participating in physical activities in natural settings and built environments.

## LESSON SUMMARY

### Lesson 1

Students will investigate what the word 'volunteer' means, and research some of the volunteer organisations around their local community.

### Lesson 2

Students will recognise why volunteers are so important to a community and learn some of the things that volunteers do. The students will also identify ways volunteers help out in the community, and list not for profit charitable organisations in the community.

## LESSON CONTENT AND METHODOLOGY

- + Students investigate what volunteering is, and why it is good for themselves and the community to volunteer. Teacher leads class discussion, asking questions such as the following.
  - + How many of you have ever volunteered your time to help somebody else?
  - + What does it mean to volunteer?
- + Brainstorm with students a definition for the word 'volunteering,' using this Volunteering Australia information sheet as a prompt: [www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Def\\_and\\_Princ\\_English.pdf](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Def_and_Princ_English.pdf)
- + Students watch a Behind the News episode about Volunteer Week: [www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4000838.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4000838.htm)
- + Students visit Children's BBC volunteering website and discuss why people volunteer: [news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid\\_3250000/newsid\\_3250100/3250193.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_3250000/newsid_3250100/3250193.stm)
- + Students are asked to look around and think of needs at the school and in the community that could be addressed by a group volunteer project.
- + Students work with a partner to write down problems or needs they see around them and how they could volunteer to help their community. Students will use the 'Volunteer Ideas Worksheet' (Worksheet 1) to record their information.

## Lesson 2

- + Prior to the lesson students will ask members of their family if they have volunteered and, if so, to describe their experience. The students need to write this down and bring it to the lesson.
- + Students use a mind map to investigate the many ways that people volunteer in their schools and communities (visit [bubbl.us](http://bubbl.us) to view online resources to assist with brainstorming and mind mapping).
- + Make a list of organisations, groups or events that use volunteers. List them on a whiteboard or smart board.
- + As a class, research local not for profit charitable organisations that work to help people with a variety of needs.
- + Students use newspapers to find articles and advertisements about organisations that are looking for, or use, volunteers.
- + Students will collect articles about people who have helped others. Students will cut out any information in the newspaper about volunteers and not for profit charitable groups and create a volunteer scrapbook.
- + Students share information about their family members' voluntary activities with the class, and write details in the scrapbook.

## ASSESSMENT

- + Worksheet 1: Why Volunteer?
- + Scrapbook sample of work.
- + Student contribution in class discussion (lesson 2).

## RESOURCES

- + *Definitions and Principles of Volunteering:* [www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Def\\_and\\_Princ\\_English.pdf](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/Def_and_Princ_English.pdf)
- + Behind the News story: *Celebrate the Power of Volunteering:* [www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4000838.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4000838.htm)
- + Bubble.us: *Brainstorming Made Easy:* [bubbl.us](http://bubbl.us)
- + Worksheet 1
- + Adapted lessons from Learning to Give: [www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit119/lesson4.html](http://www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit119/lesson4.html)

## WORKSHEET 1

# Why Volunteer? Could You Be a Volunteer?

**In your own words, write down what you think a volunteer is:**

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**Define the word volunteer:**

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**Work with a partner and write down your ideas about things in your community that need to be fixed. Look at these ideas and decide which one could become a volunteer project for the class.**

**Needs of kids at our school:**

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**Things that need to be done around school:**

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**Things that need to be done in our community:**

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