

LEARNING FOR LIFE

UPLIFTING STUDENTS · BUILDING CHARACTER · DEFINING LEADERSHIP

THEME: NEVER LOSE SIGHT

PERSISTENCE

GRADES: 4th and 5th

Core Curriculum: Supplements social studies

Focus: Self-awareness, self-confidence, self-esteem

Overview: Children at this age are becoming aware of the world around them. They show an interest in other people. They are also very concerned with questions of fair play. As a result, this is a good time to teach a lesson about tolerance of individual differences. It is important for students to understand that *tolerance* means more than accepting differences. It means learning to enjoy the differences of our neighbors-whether they be classmates, neighborhood friends, or people of another land.

This lesson is designed to help students discover differences between themselves and their classmates- differences in likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, hobbies and talents. The lesson should help them come to an important discovery that differences do not make someone better or worse. They just make them the special people that they are.

Goals: Students will learn that people are different from each other, that these differences make people special, and that they should learn to enjoy people's

LESSON PLAN:

Tell students: *Television, magazines, and books* bring us news from all over the world and let us learn more about lands and people different from our own. How many of you have seen pictures of the pyramids in Egypt or pictures of the Eskimos in Alaska?

How many of you have heard people speaking languages other than English? What are some of the other differences you have noticed about people from other lands? (Wait for replies.)

Activity 1: Tell students: *There are many things about ourselves that make us different from others around us. It can be our language, where we were born, or other things. Let's discuss some of our wonderful differences. (Give examples of how people are different from each other.)*

1. *Besides what I just mentioned, what other things can you think of that are different about each of us?*
2. *Is being different good or bad? why?*

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3. *What would happen if we were all alike?*

Our individual differences make the world an inter-esting place in which to live. We must respect each oth-er's differences and understand that these differences make each of us unique and special.

Activity 2: Tell students: *Now we are going to explore our individual differences and learn more about each other.* Put students in pairs. Give them each the hand- out or have them get it from the student workbook. Tell them they are to interview each other by asking the questions on the handout sheet, then writing down the answers. When each team is finished inter-viewing each other, they will share it with the entire class so all can get to know each other better.

Reflection: Ask students: *What is tolerance? Can you think of times in the history of our country when people were not tolerant of others' differences? What was the end result of this lack of tolerance? Many people *aren't tolerant of people just because they are from* another country or speak a different language. These people have much to offer our country. Can you think of a favorite food that you enjoy that is not traditionally an American food? For many reasons, you should be glad that there are others different from yourself in our country.*

Tell students: *You all did a good job of answering the questions and talking about your answers. I think we learned that each one of us here today is a little bit different from everyone else. We agree with some people about some of our favorite things. But we also disagree with them about other things.*

These differences are what make each one of us exactly who we are. They are what make each of us special. These kinds of differences are what make people from other countries or states special also. The more we learn about them, the better we can learn to enjoy those differences. If we work at learning more about other people, such as trying to learn more about another country, we may even be able to travel to those places and visit in the homes of the people. We must never lose sight of the fact that differences are what make the world an interesting place to live.