

Character--Philanthropists

Type of Teacher Tool: Individual or Small Group Activity

Targeted Grade Level(s): 3-12

Targeted Curriculum Areas: Character/Social Studies, Writing

Learning Objectives:

1. The student will define and understand the word philanthropy.
2. The student will study and write a short biography of historical philanthropists

Social Studies Missouri Learning Standards

1.E. Character traits and civic attitudes of significant individuals

Describe the character traits and civic attitudes. (2nd-5th)

5.D. Theme 3 Evaluate laws, events, and perspectives to determine the extent to which individuals and groups could participate in, and realize, the promise of American ideals. (6th-8th)

Writing 2.B. (3-5) Write informative/ explanatory texts that:

- a. introduce a topic or text being studied
- b. develop the topic with simple facts, definitions, details, and explanations
- c. use specific, relevant words that are related to the topic, audience, and purpose
- d. use the student's original language except when quoting from a source
- e. use transition words to connect ideas within categories of information
- f. create a concluding statement or paragraph

Writing 2.A (6-12) Follow a writing process to produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, style, and voice are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience; self-select and blend (when appropriate) previously learned narrative, expository, and argumentative writing techniques.

Model Standards for Academic, Social, Emotional, and Character Development Critical Educational Outcomes—Josephson Institute

C6. CARING Students understand that caring — including the virtues of compassion, kindness, benevolence, altruism, charity, generosity, and sharing — is the heart of ethics. They strive to demonstrate a concern for the wellbeing of others by displaying compassion for those in pain or in need by providing support in the form of donations and/or personal service

Videos/Resources/Materials Needed:

1. Character 51: Making a Difference—Maria Matias and Prom Dresses for All
2. Character 53: Making a Difference—The South County Foster Closet Story
3. Character 55: Making a Difference—The Story of Dawn Putnam and Moms on a Mission
4. Character 59: Making a Difference—Stories of Volunteering with Be the Change
5. Character 64: Making a Difference—Building School Community Through Inclusion
6. Character 65: Students Speak: Why Inclusion is Important in Schools
7. Character 71: Making a Difference—Dean Purdy and the Space Museum

8. Character 73: Making a Difference—Blessing Baskets in Ghana
9. Character 74: Making a Difference—The Story of Fred Domke and Bridge Bread Bakery
10. Character 77: Making a Difference for Pets and Pet Owners
11. Books and/or research computers

Teacher Instructions:

1. Have students choose one (or more) of the above videos to watch.
2. Discuss the definition of philanthropy and discuss that it starts with small acts of kindness before becoming recognized philanthropists. Brainstorm a list of philanthropists.
3. Have students choose one discussed or one from this list: John D. Rockefeller, Bill Gates, Andrew Carnegie, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, Jane Addams, Clara Barton, Caesar Chavez, Susan B. Antony, Booker T. Washington, Rachel Carson, George Washington Carver, Milton Hershey, Oprah Winfrey, W.E.B. Dubois
4. Have students make a slide show describing the philanthropist's notable contributions, character traits of these people, how their community shaped them, and how they shaped their community.

Extension Activities: Invite other classes or parents to watch the slide shows.

Assessment/Evaluation Option

Critique slideshow for each of the items listed in Instruction 4.