

Lesson 5: The Power of Sharing

Grade Level: K-5

Objective: Students will explore the importance of sharing as a way to build relationships and strengthen communities, connecting to the Constitution's principles.

Focus Skills:

Identifying and Applying Civic Knowledge Students explore the idea of "We the People" in the Preamble to the Constitution, and how the principles of the Constitution encourage shared responsibility and collaboration. This helps them connect their own actions of sharing to broader civic ideals.

Engaging in Civil Discourse As students discuss the importance of sharing and its impact on communities, they practice respectful communication by listening to others' perspectives and engaging in thoughtful conversations about how sharing strengthens relationships and fosters community growth.

Materials Needed:

- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers
 - Text: *Why Sharing Matters*
 - Simplified text of the Preamble to the Constitution
 - Art supplies for a collaborative mural
 - Tape
 - Paper leaves
 - Coloring supplies
 - "Sharing Tree" (a large sheet of butcher paper with a tree trunk and branches drawn on it)
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Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of sharing and how it fosters positive relationships.
 - Identify situations in which sharing can help solve problems or make others feel included.
 - Collaborate to create a visual representation of the power of sharing through the "Sharing Tree" mural.
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Lesson Outline

Introduction (10 Minutes)

- Ask students, "What does it mean to share?" Encourage responses that go beyond material things (e.g., sharing time, ideas, and responsibilities). Write their answers on the board.

- Next ask, “How do you feel when someone shares with you?” and “How do you think others feel when you share with them?” Discuss how sharing can make people feel happy, included, and valued.

Reading Time (10 Minutes)

- Read *Why Sharing Matters* aloud.

"Why Sharing Matters"

“Sharing is when we let other people have or use resources. It can be a toy, a book, a snack, or even just our time. Sharing shows that we care about others and want to make them happy. When we share, it helps everyone feel included. For example, if you share your crayons with a friend, they can color with you and have fun, too.

Sharing also helps us make friends and learn to work together. Imagine if no one shared their ideas in a group project. It would be hard to finish anything!

In our country, people also share things like parks, schools, and libraries. These are called public spaces, and they belong to everyone. When we share, we’re showing kindness and helping our communities grow stronger.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think sharing is important?
2. Can you think of a time when someone shared with you? How did it make you feel?
3. What are some things we can share in our classroom?

Constitution Connection (10 Minutes)

Introduce the Constitution:

Explain that the Constitution is a set of rules that helps everyone in our country live and work together. It talks about how we share responsibility for our communities.

Focus on "We the People":

Discuss how “We the People” in the Preamble means everyone works together to create a fair and happy place to live. Sharing is one way we can work together.

Ask Students:

1. Why is sharing responsibilities important in a community?
2. How does sharing help people feel included?
3. When is it difficult to share?
4. What are ways we can share in our classroom or community to make it better?

ACTIVITY: The Sharing Tree Mural (20 minutes)

Introduction: Explain that like a tree flourishes with more leaves and branches, the classroom also flourishes and grows stronger through sharing.

Student Participation

- Each student receives a paper leaf to write or draw an example of sharing. It could be a physical item, their time, or help they gave someone.
- Students decorate their leaves and attach them to the tree mural.
 - Afterward, one by one, students will come up to the “Sharing Tree” (a large sheet of butcher paper with a tree trunk and branches drawn on it) and tape their leaves to the branches.

Sharing and Reflection (5 minutes)

- Once all the leaves are attached, stand back and observe the completed tree.
- Ask students:
 - “How does our ‘Sharing Tree’ show the power of sharing in our classroom?”
 - “What would happen if no one shared? How would that affect our tree? What would it look like?”
- Discuss how just like the tree grew with each act of sharing, their classroom can grow into a supportive community when they continue to share with one another.
- Lead a short discussion on how they can continue to practice sharing throughout the school day and at home.
 - Ask: “What can you do tomorrow to help our tree grow even more?” to encourage ongoing acts of sharing.
 - Remind students that, just like the Constitution emphasizes working together as “We the People,” sharing helps us create a happy and fair community.

Assessment:

- Observe engagement during discussions and the mural activity. Evaluate creativity and thoughtfulness in the leaves.

Suggested Booklist: The Power of Sharing

- A Park Connects Us by Sarah Nelson
- We Move Together by Kelly Fritsch
- The Sharing Book by Dianne White