

LESSON 14

Compassion in Our Communities

🕒 45min **Prerequisite:** Completion of Lessons 1-13

Objectives students will be able to...

- * Describe what a community is.
- * List examples of compassion in a community.
- * Describe the positive outcomes of compassion in a community.

Materials

- * Shelter by Celine Claire
- * Pre-drawn tree on chart paper or pre-cut out tree on wall/bulletin board
- * Pre-cut leaves for tree



Teacher Notes

Community is defined as a group of people who are joined by common interests, history, or location. Programs that address social-emotional learning have shown to: significantly improve school climate; help develop positive relationship skills among students; help strengthen schools, families and communities. When individuals act compassionately, and that compassion spreads, it helps create kinder, healthier communities. In this lesson, students will be able to identify how compassion benefits communities and list examples of compassion in a community.

Opening

🕒 5 min

Format: Turn and talk, activate prior knowledge



Last time, we talked about showing compassion in our school. Turn and talk to a neighbor: What were some of your favorite acts of compassion from the BINGO? Why? Have a couple of volunteers share out with the class. Today, we're going to continue learning about showing compassion by talking about how we can show compassion in our communities.

Show me with your thumbs how familiar you are with the word 'community.'

Thumbs up means totally know what it is; thumbs down means never heard it before; thumbs in the middle means have heard it before but not exactly sure what it means

If lots of students know what it is, ask for a volunteer to define it. If not, define it for them: "A community is a group of people who live, work, and play together. Our community is..."

Debrief

🕒 5 min

Format: Whole group debrief

Discuss as a class:

- What was the community in this book?
- Who needed compassion? How did you know?
- Who had empathy for the bears and showed them compassion? How?
- Were the bears a part of the community at first? Did they become a part of the community later?

Debrief Cont.

Activity: Compassion Tree

🕒 15 min

Format: Whole group debrief

Evaluation

🕒 5 min

Format: Access Individually

Debrief and Closing

🕒 5 min

Format: Turn and talk,
class discussion

Extensions

Teacher evaluation on the next page

Have students turn and talk to a partner:

- What is something nice or compassionate you have done for your community? Think about your neighborhood - that's your community! Think about your neighborhood park or your neighbors - have you done something nice for them? You can even show compassion for the environment by cleaning up your park!
- How did that compassion make your community a better place?

After students have shared with a partner, allow a few students to share with the whole group.

1. Hang a big (pre-created) tree on your wall or bulletin board (it should have a trunk and branches, but no leaves) or use chart paper with one pre-drawn.
2. Talk about what communities look like and how they work (members need each other for support, safety, happiness).
3. Ask students to brainstorm types of communities (e.g. school, neighborhood, church, etc.). Write the different communities on each branch of the tree - one on each branch.
4. Divide students into partners. Hand out pre-cut leaves for students (each partnership should get approximately 5 leaves, or one for each community). Ask students to work with their partners to write on each leaf one way to show compassion in each of these communities. Ask them to consider including acts that involve those they don't know.
5. When students are finished, have volunteers share with the class. Finally, attach the leaves to the appropriate branch.

After the tree is complete, distribute the Commit to Compassionate Action worksheets.

Have students fill out the Commit to Compassionate Action worksheets, focusing on ways they can show compassion in their communities. Let them know they can borrow ideas from the class Compassion Tree for their own compassionate acts.

Turn and talk: Why should we show compassion in our communities? Why is it important?

Have a few students share out their answers.

Discuss:

- What compassionate acts are you most excited about trying in our different communities?
- What do you think might happen in our communities as a result of our compassion?

Post the Commit to Compassionate Action worksheets up somewhere visible.

Allow sharing time for students to follow-up with what they did to show compassion in their communities from the Commit to Compassionate Action worksheets.

Leave the tree up year-round as a reminder of ways students can show others compassion in their communities.

Provide extra leaves for students to add to the branches as they think of more ways to show compassion in different communities.

Additional Suggested Reading for Students:

- I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascoet
- Duck for a Day by Meg McKinlay
- Bear Says Thanks by Karma Wilson



Learners needing support:

Learners ready for extensions

Notes for next time



Commit to Compassion Action

Name:

Date:

1. Choose someone in your house that you will show compassion to (parent, grandparent, brother, sister):

2. How will you show them compassion?

3. How do you think it will make your home a better place?

1. Choose someone in your neighborhood that you will show compassion to (neighbor, new kid):

2. How will you show them compassion?

3. How do you think it will make your community a better place (You might need to get mom or dad's permission or help for this one)?

1. Choose a place where you can show compassion to the environment (park, playground, yard):

2. How will you show compassion to the environment?

3. How do you think it will help the environment?