



Lower Elementary, Lesson 1

A Week of Kindness

Activity Overview and Objective

Students will be able to understand the importance of respect and kindness toward all living things in their lives as they learn about the similarities between people and animals.

Connections to Standards

Michigan Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy

Reading – Foundational Skills:

RF.K-2.1: Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.

Writing:

W.K-2.7: Participate in shared research and writing projects.

W.K-2.8: With guidance and support, recall information from experiences or gather information to answer a question.

Speaking & Listening:

SL.K-2.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade appropriate topics with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

SL.K-2.2: Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

SL.K-2.4: Describe an experience or tell a story with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings.

SL.K-2.6: Speak and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly for appropriate grade level.

Language:

L.K-2.1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

L.K-2.5: With guidance and support, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

Michigan Standards in Science

K.LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

K-ESS3-1: Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

2-LS4-1: Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

MI Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten

ELE 1: Emergent Reading

ELE 2: Writing Skills

ELE 3: Spoken Language– Expressive

ELE 4: Spoken Language– Receptive

Lesson Overview

Activities

Choose the activities that best match the interest and needs of your students.

- ☞ **Discuss Similarities and Differences Between All Living Beings**
- ☞ **Compare and Contrast Animals’ and People’s Needs**
- ☞ **Write About Your Life as an Animal**
- ☞ **Complete an Act of Kindness Toward Animals with your Family this Week**

Materials

Computer or Overhead Projector

Crayons and markers

Worksheets: “What Do We Need?”, “If I Were an Animal”, and “A Week of Kindness”

Community Connection

- ◆ Host a drive to collect animal supplies in your classroom (or school!) to donate to a local animal shelter. To help the Michigan Humane Society, please visit: www.michiganhumane.org/donate/ways-give/ and click on “Wish List” for a current list of items needed.

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Procedure

1. Ask students to **consider similarities and differences between all living beings**. Ask if any students have pets at home. Explain that even if students don't have pets, they all already know some of pets' needs, because many things are the same as people's needs. Plants and trees even need some of the same things as people and animals, too! Pass out "What Do We Need" worksheet. **Discuss each item as a class**, and ask which living being needs each item, and put an "x" in the box for those that align.
2. Create a Venn diagram to **compare and contrast animals' and people's needs**, (Shown on overhead/projector using the Venn Diagram worksheet.) Students may use ideas from the worksheet, and others, such as: Where do you go when you get sick?/ Where do animals go when they're sick?; What do you do for fun?/ What do animals do for fun?
3. Students will **write about what their life would be like if they were an animal**. Review and explain "If I Were an Animal" worksheet, and tell students to think of appropriate answers. (If they don't know the proper answer, they can make a smart guess.) For pre-kindergarten or students needing support, the teacher will choose an animal, and have students help come up with the answers together.
4. Explain that as a class, **we are going to demonstrate how we care for animals and other living creatures** this week. Pass out "A Week of Kindness" worksheet, and challenge students and their families to **complete a kind act on behalf of animals this week**. It can be for a pet or a wild animal. Brainstorm some ideas as a class for kind things students can do for animals. (Some ideas may include making a feeder or house for outdoor animals, spending time playing with or walking a pet of their own or their neighbor's, making a pet a blanket, etc.) Explain that students must get permission from parents before interacting with any animals. It is best if activities are completed as a family. If students are not able to complete an activity, ask what things they might like to do in the future to be kind to an animal. Students will **write their kind acts** on the worksheet and **share with the class** at the end of the week.