

Unit VII: Building Better Futures: Narrative, Recovery and Responsibility

Grade Levels: K-5

Time: 30 - 45+ minutes

Lesson EVII-16: Serving our Town, Country, and World National Day of Service

Interdisciplinary Connections:

Literacy, technology, character education

Objectives:

- Students will be able to explain the value of providing service.
- Students will experience being an active participant in their community.

Key Terms:

Service

Appreciation

Awareness

Charity

Reflect

Materials:

- Information on "National Day of Service and Remembrance."
- Resources from internet sites to help guide teachers to appropriate projects
Age appropriateness in youth service activities Grades K-5:
 - <http://handsonasheville.org/AboutUs/index.php/Youth/AgeAppropriatenessInServiceActivitiesGradesK-5.pdf>
 - Explains the day: <http://911day.org/>
 - Service opportunities: <http://www.serve.gov/>

Activities/Procedures:

- Explain to the class the initiative for September 11, 2009 as the National Day of Service and Remembrance. Read the following:

From: <http://911day.org/>

Observe a Moment of Service

On April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed legislation that for the first time officially establishes September 11 as a federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance. Join us and many others in supporting this historic and forward-looking observance this year, along with the President's 2009 Summer of Service initiative (www.serve.gov).

By pledging to volunteer, perform good deeds, or engage in other forms of charitable service during the week of 9/11, you and your organization will help rekindle the remarkable spirit of unity, service and compassion shared by so many in the immediate aftermath of the attacks. And you'll help create a fitting, enduring and historic legacy in the name of those lost and injured on 9/11, and in tribute to the 9/11 first responders, rescue and recovery workers, and volunteers, and our brave military personnel who continue to serve to this day.

Classroom Activity:

- Using the resources above for service ideas appropriate for your grade level, decide as a class which service project you will work on. (The time needed to complete the service project is in addition to the indicated lesson time.)
- As much as possible, involve students in the planning and decision-making pieces of the project.
- Ask students to reflect (by thinking, speaking, and/or writing) about the experience following each “moment of service.”

Evidence of Understanding:

- Discuss the following with the class:
 - Why is service important?
 - Who/what did our project help?
 - Why did the president designate September 11th as a Day of Service?
 - What are some service projects you can do at home or in your community?
 - How did you feel when you were participating in the service activity?

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service:

- Collaborate with another class to do a service project together.
- Join with a community group to engage in a service project together.
- Review the history of Martin Luther King Day and the Day of Service
<http://MLKday.gov/about/serveonking.php>
- What other times do we give service to honor someone?