

LIFESAVING VOLUNTEERS TO THE RESCUE

Level: 5 & 6

Activity: 2

Overview

While studying to become a doctor, Hayden spends up to 15 hours a week volunteering in different ways in his community. As well as being a rescue swimmer, Hayden also volunteers as a dispatcher, a lifesaver and patrol captain at his life saving club and once a month he participates in a meal sharing program for asylum seekers who are experiencing homelessness. In this lesson students will explore the role volunteers play in their school community, investigate opportunities to become volunteers themselves and hopefully choose to get involved!

Resources

- Smartboard
- Copies of the *Let's Volunteer!* chart (Appendix A) for small groups

Activity

ENGAGE

Watch the [Volunteer Week](#) video. Draw an outline of a person on the board. Ask students what personal qualities they think it takes to be a volunteer. Write these inside the shape. Now ask students what the benefits of being a volunteer are (encourage them to reflect on the video) and write these around the shape.

EXPLORE

In small groups, students need to choose another classroom in the school to visit. Their task is to interview the students to find out:

- Who are the important volunteers in this class?
- What role do they play?
- What are the benefits to this particular class and to the wider school community?

EXPLAIN

Students report back to their own class with their findings. Ask them to write the name of each volunteer, together with their role on a separate piece of cardboard or paper. Ask students to try sorting the cards.

- Can they be grouped in any way?
- Are there any patterns?
- Can we draw any conclusions from this? (For example, perhaps there are more volunteers in the Year 1 class than in Year 5, maybe there are more volunteers to help with reading than with maths etc.)

ELABORATE

In small groups, students brainstorm a list of things they could volunteer their time for within the school community. Encourage them to consider their findings from the previous task. Together they need to fill in the *Let's Volunteer!* chart (Appendix A). Come back together as a whole class and ask each group to share their top three ideas. Ask students:

- Which of these volunteer opportunities appeals to you the most? Why?
- Which do you think would have the most positive impact within the school?
- Which would help the most people?
- Would you be interested in volunteering?

Encourage (but do not force) students to choose one of the suggestions and spend some time volunteering over the next week.

EVALUATE

After students have had some time to complete one of the volunteer activities (if they choose!) come back together as a group and discuss:

- Which activity did you choose?
- Do you think it was worthwhile? Why/why not?
- How do you feel?
- Did you learn any new skills?
- Would you volunteer again?
- Do we need volunteers? Why/why not?
- Many of the lifeguards at our beaches are volunteers, what would happen if no one volunteered?

Curriculum Links



Level 5		
CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP	<u>Citizenship, Diversity & Identity</u>	Identify who can be an Australian citizen and describe the rights, responsibilities and shared values of Australian citizenship and explore ways citizens can participate in society (VCCCC014)
		Investigate how people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve their goals and plan for action(VCCCC016)
Level 6		
CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP	<u>Citizenship, Diversity & Identity</u>	Identify who can be an Australian citizen and describe the rights, responsibilities and shared values of Australian citizenship and explore ways citizens can participate in society (VCCCC014)
		Investigate how people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve their goals and plan for action(VCCCC016)

Sample Report Comments

{Name} understands and can describe the important role that volunteers play in the school community.

{Name} developed a range of ideas for volunteer opportunities within the school community. {He/She} chose to volunteer {his/her} own time to contribute to the community in a positive way.

References

Behind the News, 2011. *Volunteer Week*. [online video] Available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3208633.htm> [Accessed 16 April 2018].

Appendix A

Let's Volunteer!

Think about where help is most needed in your school. Fill in the table below with your ideas.

Idea	Who would it help?	Where/When would it happen?	What resources/materials would be needed?	What are the potential benefits?