



Service Learning Lesson Plan

Project Title: A Day Without Shoes

Grade Level: 7-12

Duration: 1 month

Main Subject Area: Social Studies

Theme: Poverty

Objective/Description

Students study social institutions and their response to poverty. Students support Red Bird Mission in Eastern Appalachia by collecting as many gently-used and new shoes as possible. Students and staff agree to donate shoes and go without a pair of shoes for one day. Multiple teachers support the effort by implementing poverty lessons in their classrooms on the day of the event.

Common Core Content Standards

SS-H-CS-U-2. Program of Studies: Understandings - Students will understand that social institutions (e.g., government, economy, education, religion, family) respond to human needs, structure society, and influence behavior within different cultures.

Driving Question

How do “social institutions” respond to human need? How can I help?

Investigation

Research, class instruction, interviewing civic leaders and/or professionals, surveying neighbors or peers

- Teach a lesson on “Social Institutions”—how they structure society, influence behavior, and respond to human need.
- Have students research some institutions that respond to human need; have a class discussion about the kinds of “institutions” that do, and discuss the level of human neediness that exists in parts of Appalachia.
- Introduce the idea of doing a project to help meet one of those needs, and present literature and online resources connecting students with Red Bird Mission (see www.rbmission.org); brainstorm ways to benefit that organization, such as doing “a day without shoes” and a shoe drive to collect 100 pairs of new or gently-used shoes.

Preparation

Collaborative problem solving, planning, and task assignment by & with the students

- See “Planning Tools” at http://servicelearning.childreninc.org/?page_id=527.
- Collaboratively plan the advertising for the event and divide into groups; each group handles a different aspect of advertising.
 - Create posters.
 - Give announcements at school.
 - Compose a letter home to families explaining the project and giving a call to action.
 - Each person contacts four friends.
- Plan the collection process for the donated shoes.
- Ask teachers of academic subjects to highlight poverty in Appalachia on the day of the event (e.g. English teachers could use literature and writing pieces related to poverty, science teachers could create lessons about shoe technology or infection and how it is prevented by shoes).



- Assign students to take pictures of the event (to be used in the “Demonstration” step.)
- Have students communicate with Red Bird Mission to arrange for shoes to be transported there (possibly chaperones and student leaders could deliver the shoes).

Action

Service activities or methods used to address a social issue or community need

Collect and donate to Red Bird Mission new and gently-used shoes. (On the day of the event, place shoes in a highly visible location, such as cafeteria stage, for all students and staff to see.)

Reflection

Frequent assessment of students’ growing knowledge and developing skills; refer to driving question

- See “Reflection/Evaluation” at http://servicelearning.childreninc.org/?page_id=483.
- After studying poverty in Appalachia, have students write a reflection piece telling how they think their lives might be different (needs met?) if they lived in poverty.
- Once the organization is chosen, discuss how the project will make a difference in the lives of people in Appalachia.
- At the end of the project, have students complete a student survey.

Demonstration of Knowledge

Assessment of students’ knowledge/skills and project outcomes

- With the pictures taken during the event, have students create a display board or PowerPoint and present their project to administrators, the PTO, and/or the school board.
- Display the presentation in school and post thank you notes to all participants.

Community Partners

Includes anyone who offers expertise to the project or who benefits from the project

Red Bird Mission

Outcome

Funds or goods generated, direct or indirect service provided, advocacy or education done

Collection and donation of new or gently-used shoes

Secondary Subject Areas (All that apply are in bold)

- **English, Reading, Language Arts**
- World Languages
- Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Economics
- **Geography**
- History
- Government and Civics
- Global Awareness
- Financial, Economic, Business, and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- **Civic Literacy**
- Health Literacy
- Environmental Literacy



21st Century Skills (All that apply are in bold)

- Career Readiness
- Creativity and Innovation
- **Communication and Collaboration**
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**
- Physical Education
- **Initiative and Self-direction**
- **Flexibility and Adaptability**
- Consumerism
- **Information Literacy**
- **Media Literacy**
- Technology Literacy
- Productivity and Accountability
- **Leadership and Responsibility**
- **Social and Cross-cultural Skills**