



LESSON Overview

Title: Introduction to Homelessness 2

Grade Level

K-1

Lesson Type

Class

Duration

Subject

Social Studies

Skill(s) Developed

Critical Thinking



Topic: Do we **need** a home?

Learning Goals :

By the end of this lesson, learners should understand human basic needs by answering the questions: What are human needs? What are human wants? What can happen if we cannot have the things that we need? Is a home a human need or want? Learners will complete activities that introduce them to human needs and privileges.

Materials Needed:

- Chart Paper
- Markers
- Needs and Wants activity worksheet (included)
- A Shelter in our Car activity worksheet (included)

Pre-Requisites

Introduction to Homelessness



Introduction to Homelessness 2

Kindergarten-Gr. 1

OBJECTIVE

PREPARATION

To prepare yourself and the learners for the lesson, please see the **Teacher's Glossary** below for explanations related to needs and wants, poverty and privilege. Instructor should review all discussion questions prior to the lesson to support learner understanding.

ACTIVITIES

- Activity 1: Needs and Wants
- Activity 2: One step forward

RESOURCES

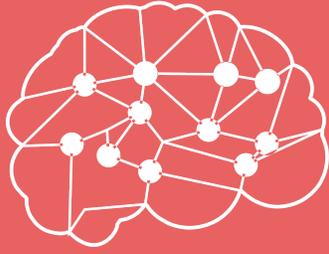
Evaluation Rubric(s): Critical Thinking Skills

LESSON OUTLINE

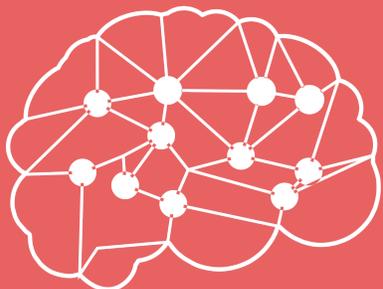
To begin this lesson, remind the learners of the discussion from the previous lesson about all the important things to have in their home and what would happen if we did not have a home. Create a chart and discuss the following as a class: 'Is a home something that we need? Why or why not?' After discussion, learners will complete **Activity 1: Needs and Wants** followed by **Activity 2: One step forward**. Instructor should follow up this lesson with [Introduction to The Shoebox Project](#).

EVALUATION

Evaluation Rubric(s)- Critical Thinking Skills



Activity



Title: Needs and Wants

Grade Level

K-1

Subject

Social Studies

Lesson Type

Class

Skill(s) Category

**Brainstorming
Analyzing**

Duration



Topic: Introduction to Homelessness 2

Materials Needed:

- Chart Paper
- Marker
- Scissors
- Needs and Wants activity worksheet

Instructions :

- 1 Begin this activity by asking learners discussion questions 1-3.
- 2 Instructor will explain the difference between needs and wants.
- 3 As a class, use the list of needs and wants and have learners categorize them in a chart.
4. Once the list is complete , instructor will follow up with discussion question 4-7 and introduce poverty to the learners (see detailed explanations in glossary)

Discussion Questions:

1. What are things that humans NEED?
2. What are things that humans want but may not need?
3. What is the difference between a human need and want?
4. Why might we not be able to have the things that we need
5. What will happen if we do not have the things that we need?
6. What is poverty?
7. Do you think that poverty can lead to homelessness?

[Click here](#) to learn more about human poverty and its connection to homelessness. Additional information can be found in the glossary section below.

Needs and Wants

Instructions: As a class, sort the words from the list of wants and needs below and place them in the correct category. Note: Instructor can cut out each need/want to have learners choose at random and placed on a chart or a pair of jars labelled : NEEDS and WANTS. Once complete discuss all of the items on the NEEDS list.

A house

A bed

Chocolate bar

Clothes

An iPad

Necklace

Shoes

A Cell phone

Heat

Medicine

Swimming pool

French fries

Healthy Food

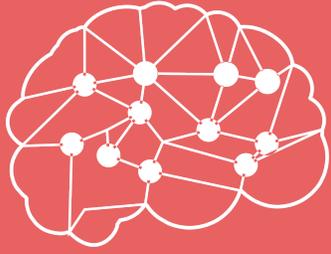
TV

Clean Air

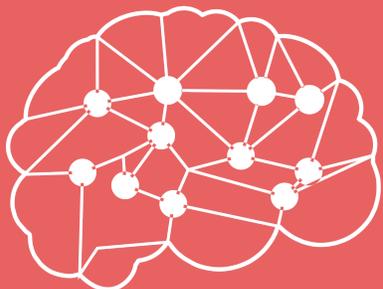
Candy

Playstation

A camera



Activity



Title: One Step Forward

Grade Level

K-1

Subject(s)

Social Studies

Lesson Type

Class Activity

Skill(s) Category

Analyzing

Duration



Topic: Introduction to Homelessness 2

Materials Needed:

- Chart Paper (optional)
- Marker (optional)
- One Step Forward activity worksheet

Instructions :

1. Begin the activity by explaining to the class that our differences make us unique individuals. We might not all like the same things or live similar lives, and that's okay!
2. Have students stand in a straight line next to each other (you may have to move items around to make space)
3. Students will follow the instructions in the 'One step forward' worksheet to complete the activity.
4. Follow up the activity with discussion question 1.

Discussion Question:

1. Why is it important to recognize differences in ourselves and others?

Introduce the learners to the concept of intersectionality as it relates to differences, circumstances and experiences in our everyday lives. Explain: Some of these steps forward were not because of choices you made (like if you have brown hair or if you wear glasses). Some of these differences are beyond our control. Similarly, some people have differences that make getting a great job or housing more difficult than others. Think about someone who is experiencing homelessness. Consider the various obstacles they may have faced in their life that were beyond their control.

One Step Forward

Instructions:

Facilitators will line each member of the group next to each other on a taped/roped line. Facilitators will ask a series of questions that get more “serious” in nature as the game goes on. Learners will step forward if the statement applies to them. Follow up activity with discussion questions/ analysis.

Take one step forward if...

1... you are wearing a t-shirt



2... you have brown hair

3... you are wearing glasses



4... you have more than two siblings

5... you share a bedroom

6... speak more than one language



7... you have a pet at home

8... one or both of your parents weren't born in Canada

9... one or both of your grandparents live with you





Glossary



Grade Level

K-1

Subject

Social Studies

Lesson Title

Introduction to Homelessness 2 Description

The glossary section provides definitions, explanations and resources for the lesson.

DEFINITIONS

Needs vs. Wants

"Needs" are the things humans need to survive. Some examples of needs are:

- A home
- Doctors and Medicine
- Food
- Clean water
- Transportation (Gas for car, TTC tickets)
- Clothes
- Heat and electricity

Wants are things that someone chooses to buy, but could live without. Wants are not things that we need to survive, but they are things that make us happy and can help people achieve important goals like staying in touch with others, having fun, or staying healthy. Some examples of wants are:

- Entertainment (Going to the movies, bowling, laser tag, amusement parks)
- Eating-out (Eating at restaurants, fast food places etc.)
- Travel
- Electronics (Buying more than what is needed for work, school etc.)
- TV or music streaming accounts

Poverty

When someone is experiencing poverty, it means they can't afford their basic needs —food, clean water, shelter and clothing, etc..

Privilege

Privileges include the good things in your life that you enjoy, that are 'wants', not 'needs'. Privileges are unearned, which means you were born having access to these things.

[Click here](#) for more information

LESSON RESOURCES

1. **Teacher's Guide-** The teachers's guide provides an introduction to the Shoebox Project lessons. This includes information about The Shoebox Project, why it matters and the learning objectives for these lesson plans. Please [click here](#) for details.

2. **Evaluation rubrics-** [Click here](#) to download