

# Everyday Heroes: Character Traits to the Rescue!

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<b>Grade Level</b>	6
<b>Duration</b>	3 class periods

## National Standards

### GEOGRAPHY

#### Element 5: Environment and Society

15. How physical systems affect human systems.

## AZ Standards

### ELA

#### Reading

##### Key Ideas and Details

6.RI.2 Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

##### 6-8 Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

##### Research to Build and Present Knowledge

**6.W.7** Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

**6.W.9** Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research.

## Arizona Social Science Standards

### GEOGRAPHY

#### Global interconnections and spatial patterns are a necessary part of geographic reasoning.

6.G4.2 Describe how natural and human-made catastrophic events and economic activities in one place affect people living in nearby and distant places.

### CIVICS

#### Process, rules, and laws direct how individuals are governed and how society addresses problems.

6.C4.1 Explain challenges and opportunities people and groups face when solving local, regional, and/or global problems.

6.C4.2 Describe and apply civic virtues including deliberative processes that contribute to the common good and democratic principles in school, community, and government.

## Overview

Natural and man-made disasters require preparedness and immediate relief through organizations set up to help victims. Citizens can demonstrate strong character traits by working together, being prepared, and responding quickly to a crisis. Helping each other is one way to preserve democracy in our country.

## Purpose

In this lesson students will learn the development of positive character traits is important to the preservation and improvement of a constitutional democracy. The students will learn how individuals worked together to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They will also learn ways they can volunteer to help in different relief organizations.

## Materials

- 2006 SuperBUILD reading
- Kids Help Out reading
- Character Trait Chart
- Volunteer Organization Research Cheat Sheet
- Advertise Here! writing assignment
- Character Stick Figures
- Highlighters
- Computer Lab with Internet
- Poster Paper
- Markers and Colored Pencil

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. describe and illustrate the character traits of respect, responsibility, fairness, and involvement
2. explain how the character traits are important to the preservation and improvement of a constitutional democracy

## Everyday Heroes Character Traits to the Rescue

3. identify the character traits within a newspaper article and summarize how the trait was demonstrated.
4. choose a volunteer agency and research its mission including how it prepares and responds to disasters
5. persuade other students to join the organization by publishing an advertisement that includes information on the organization

### Procedures

#### SESSION ONE

1. Ask the students to draw 4 stick figures representing the following traits: respect, responsibility, fairness, and involvement using the Character Stick Figures worksheet. Next ask the students to use each stick figure as center of a web and write words that define those traits around the stick figure. Have several students share their definitions with the class. Then give these definitions orally and allow the students to add any key words to their stick figures they don't already have.
  - Respect: A feeling of appreciative, often deferential regard; esteem.
  - Responsibility: Something for which one is responsible; a duty, obligation, or burden.
  - Fairness: the state, condition, or quality of being fair, even handedness, or free from bias or injustice.
  - Involvement: The fact or condition of being involved in or participating in something.
2. Explain that in a constitutional democracy, everyone works together for the common good. The common good means you are working for the good of the whole community and helping everyone. Ask the students why they would need the character traits on their stick figure charts in order for a country to be better.
3. Next explain that when huge events or disasters happen, we have to work together to make things right. One big disaster took place in 2005 when a hurricane hit Louisiana killing many people. Different volunteer organizations stepped in to help people and repair the damage. Even other countries sent money to help the victims.
4. Explain that the students will read two articles that show how different people volunteered to help after Hurricane Katrina. As they read, they need to underline or highlight 4 examples of the 4 character traits and complete the character chart (not all traits will be found).
5. Close by adding examples from the articles to the stick figure web and sharing with the class.

#### SESSION TWO

1. Review the news articles read yesterday. Ask if the students can remember any organizations that provided service after the hurricane (Habitat for Humanity). Explain that there are many organizations set up to help victims of disasters.
2. Hand students the Volunteer Organization Research Cheat Sheet assignment. The students will choose one organization to research. The students should then generate questions that they would like to find the answers to.
3. The students will then look at websites for information on their agency and record on the research cheat sheet. Direct students to the "about" section of the websites and "disaster relief".
4. Close by asking a few students to share their organization and what it does to help.

#### SESSION THREE

1. Ask the students to create a poster advertising the volunteer agency they researched. Using their research, they will explain what the organization does and who they help.
2. Go over the criteria on the "Advertise Here!" worksheet.
3. After completion, display posters where the students can view, or have each student present his/her poster.

### Assessment

Students will score 80% or higher on the character stick figures worksheet. Five points are given for an accurate stick figure and definition in each square. Students need a total of 16 or higher out of 20 points to achieve mastery.

Students will score 100% to achieve mastery on the character trait chart by accurately identifying character traits four different times.

Students will score 100% to achieve mastery on the Volunteer Organization Research Cheat Sheet by completing each square.

Students will score 80% or higher to achieve mastery on the advertisement poster which would be a score of 48 points or higher out of 60 total points.

### Extensions

Write a newspaper article that shows one of the character traits from an event the student is familiar with.

## Sources

Dictionary [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)

Discovery <http://dsc.discovery.com>

Scholastic News

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/hurricanekatrina/articles/index.asp?article=news&topic=0#090805>

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