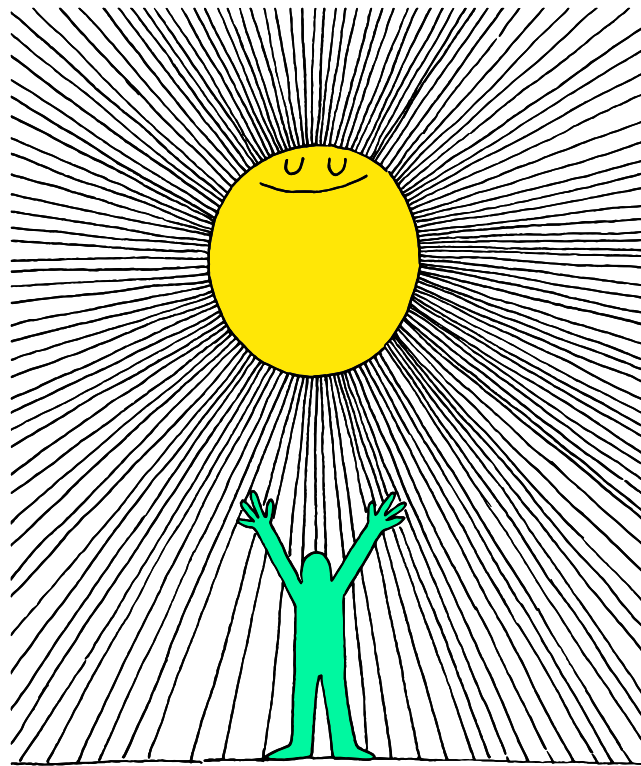


WELL-BEING CANADA CURRICULUM
Learning
About Altruism



KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Lessons 10 to 13

THE ROAD TO POSITIVE WELL-BEING IN EVERY CLASSROOM STARTS HERE

WELL- BEING CANADA

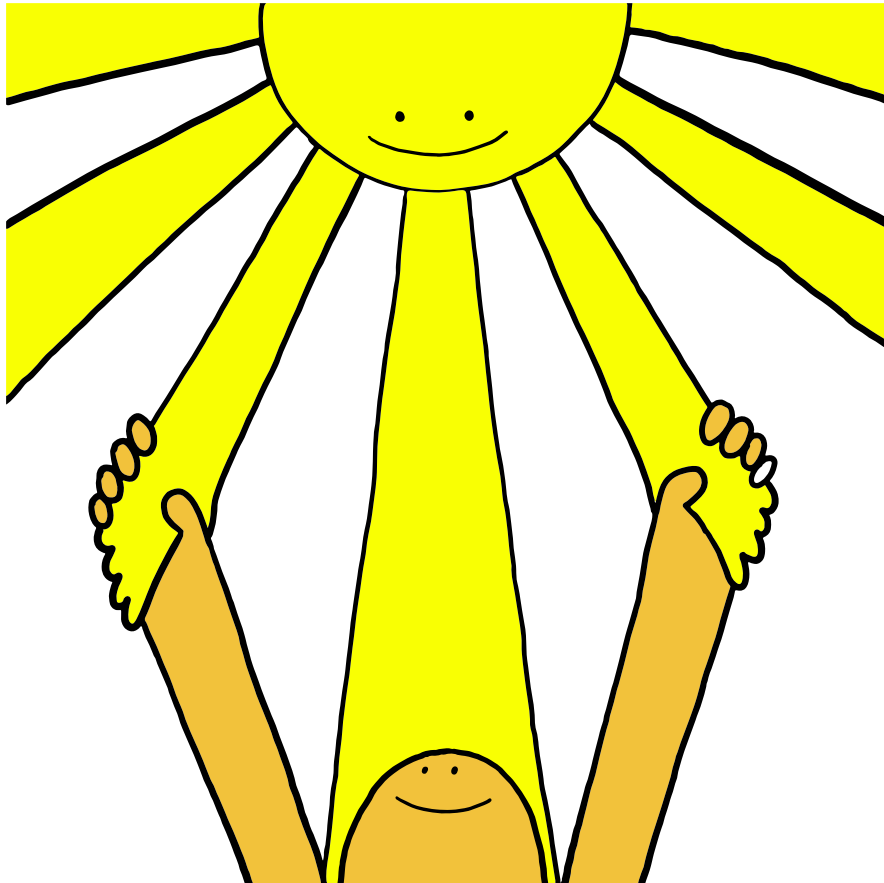


Well-being Canada is an educational program that uses evidence-based tools, resources and everyday actions to nurture and promote positive well-being in students of all ages.

This resource is focused on supporting K-3 level to build the foundation of social-emotional learning and support educators in the integration of well-being into your classrooms.

The collection of 15 lessons are easy to use, classroom friendly and provide tools and activities to nurture well-being in your students.

The Road to Altruism



LESSON 10

THE ROAD TO POSITIVE WELL-BEING IN EVERY CLASSROOM STARTS HERE



Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the positive human quality altruism. Students will make connections between altruism, empathy and compassion in their community and the world.

Objectives:

- Students investigate and learn about altruism.
- Students link knowledge from previous lessons on empathy and compassion.
- Students consider ways they can act with altruism at school, home and in their community.

Estimated Time:

40 minutes

Materials:

Projector and screen or monitor; writing paper; chart paper, markers, whiteboard/chalkboard or SMARTboard

Skills Learned:



CRITICAL THINKING



COMMUNICATION SKILLS



REFLECTION SKILLS



SELF-CARE SKILLS



SELF MANAGEMENT SKILLS



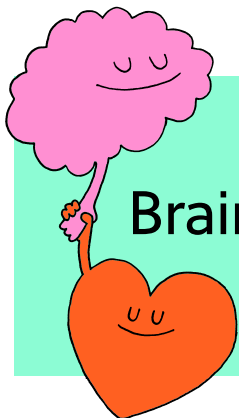
SOCIAL AWARENESS SKILLS



RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING



SELF-AWARENESS SKILLS



Brain Bites

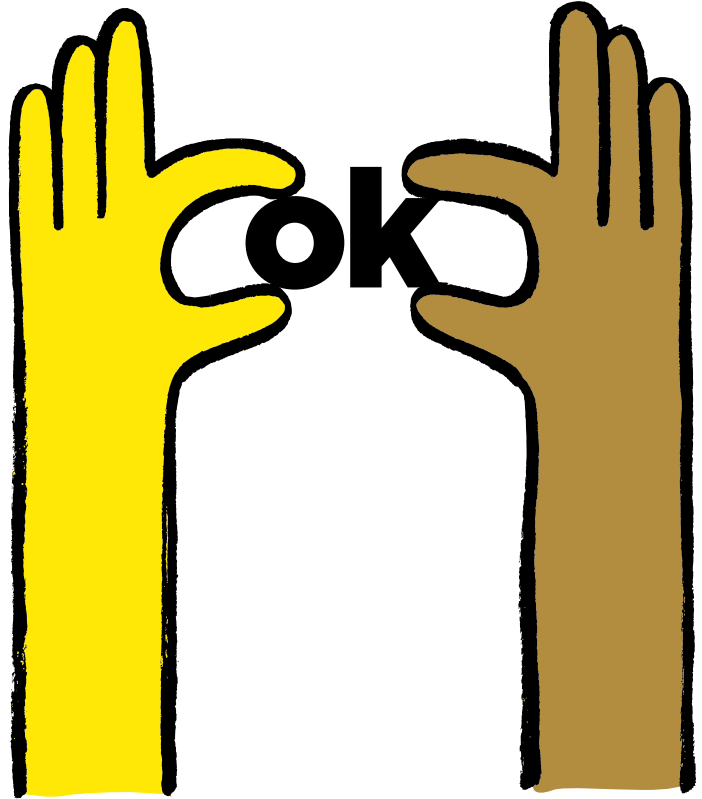
What's good for the body is good for the brain. What's good for the brain is good for the body! Throughout the lessons you will find brain icons with actions and facts about the brain. It is important for students to understand the importance of the brain and how it impacts our well-being.

Differentiation by Grade Level

Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

Kindergarten

- Part 2, Step 2: While the word “altruism” is introduced in this step, feel free to use your teacher judgement on when you feel your students are ready to be introduced to the word “altruism.” Understanding the meaning and actions are more important than the word itself.
- Part 3, Step 1: Instead of having students complete the “Acting with Altruism” worksheet, you may want to have students draw an example of altruism they can do at home, in their community, and their school, OR you can create an anchor chart as a class.



1st Grade

- Part 3, Step 1: *See Kindergarten differentiation for Part 3, Step 1.

2nd Grade

- Part 3, Step 1: Use the first version of the “Acting with Altruism” worksheet.

3rd Grade

- Part 3, Step 1: As a challenger, have students use the Venn diagram version of the “Acting with Altruism” worksheet.

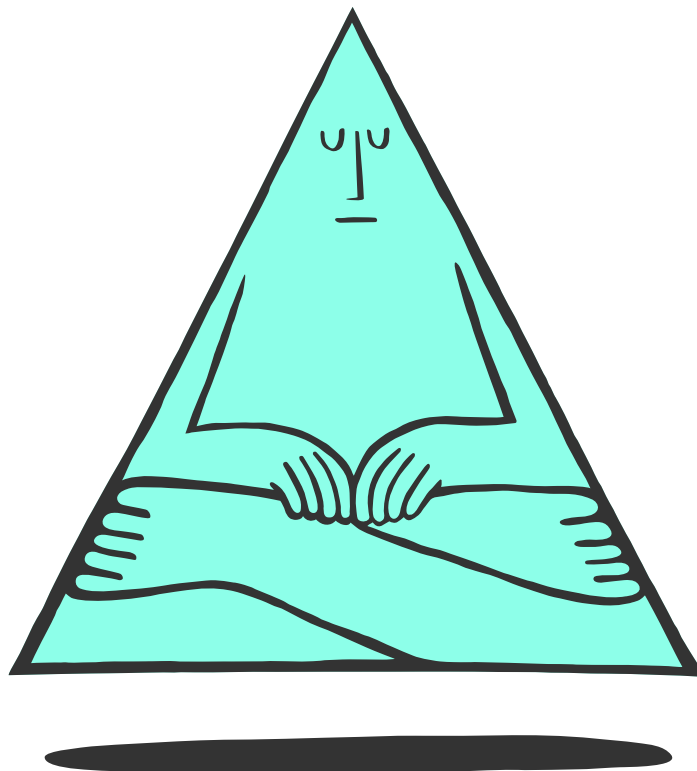
Part 1: Reflect and Connect (5 minutes)

Mindful Start (optional)

Objective: To prepare students for learning; to review lessons on mindful breathing. Invite students to take a short mindful break.

Invite students to take a short mindful break.

- Let's begin by taking a short mindful moment.
- First, find a comfortable seat in your chair. Place your feet flat on the ground. Rest your hands on your lap. (Alternate: First, find a comfortable seat on the carpet. Rest your hands on your lap.)
- If it feels comfortable, you can close your eyes. If not, just look softly down toward your desk (or the floor).
- Now, just begin by noticing how your body feels sitting here.
- No need to do anything but notice what you feel.
- Turn your attention to your breath for a few moments.
- Try taking two more deep breaths in through your nose and slowly breathe out through your mouth. See if you can notice your breath filling up your belly...
- Before we start our lesson today, reflect for a moment on our work on gratitude. You might think about something that you feel grateful for ... maybe a kind action from somebody or something in nature that made you happy.
- When you are ready, you can open your eyes.



Part 2: Investigate and Learn (20–30 minutes)

Step 1: Experiential Learning: An Altruistic Memory

Overview: Invite students to recall an incident when someone showed kindness.

Note: This activity introduces the concept of altruism experientially. This allows a personal touchpoint as the lesson moves into learning about altruism.

- Today, we're going to begin remembering a time when someone did something kind for you. Take a moment to recall a memory of someone's kindness.
- Maybe someone helped you solve a problem.
- Perhaps someone cheered you up when you were feeling down.
- Maybe it was just a simple gesture, like holding a door open.
- Take your time finding your memory...
- Once you're settled on a memory, you can write or draw about it.
- Recall how you felt when that person acted with kindness toward you. Give students a few minutes to write or draw their kindness memory.

Younger students may need some direction with this, so you may ask some high level prompting questions:

- Can you think of someone who was kind to you this week, maybe at home or at school?
- What was the kind thing they did for you? Maybe they helped you with something or cheered you up.
- How did you feel when they were kind to you?

Step 2: Introduce the Concept: What Is Altruism?

Overview: Using the following guiding questions, lead the class in a discussion about the concept of altruism. Invite student ideas and write them on the board.

Note: This question helps students access their previous knowledge about the subject.

- You all just remembered a time when someone was kind to you. That person may have been showing altruism.
- Has anyone ever heard that word before? Altruism? Invite student ideas.

Provide the following definition(s): Altruism is when we care about others and do kind acts that help them even though we don't get anything in return by doing those acts.

In other words, it is doing something kind just because it is a nice thing to do, not because we think we will get a reward for doing it.

Now, project or write the definitions on the board. Select from the following guiding questions to prompt student thinking.

- **WHY** do we do things to help others?
- **HOW** does it make us feel when we do kind things to help others?

Step 3: Share Out

As a group, invite students to share out their thoughts about altruism. How do you think altruism might help us with our well-being?

- Research has found that when you help others, without expecting anything in return, like volunteering, you boost your own well-being and happiness
 - Altruism help us make positive connections to others and builds a strong, caring community.
 - When we do kind things for others, it sends signals to our brains to give us a “warm fuzzy” feeling!

- Is there anything I missed?
- What questions do you have?
- Ensure students have the key message: Altruism is really about being kind to others, without expecting anything in return.



Part 3: Application (20–25 minutes)

Step 1: Acting with Altruism

Overview: Students consider how they can act with altruism in their daily life at home, school and in their community.

Note: A companion worksheet can be found at the end of this lesson; there are two versions for differentiation, a Venn diagram that may be more challenging and a list-style version. Select the version that best suits your students.

Instructions for students:

- We are going to practise acting with altruism!
- To do this, we will think about how we might set intentions to act with altruism.
- First, let's brainstorm some scenarios where you might act with altruism.
- For example, opening the door for others, picking up a dropped pencil for someone else, etc.
- What are other ways we can act with altruism?
- What things are we already doing here in our classroom that look like altruism? At home?
- Write down student responses on the board.

Step 2: Reflect

- What ideas did we think up together?
- How do you think others feel when you act with altruism toward them?
- How do you feel when you act with altruism?
- How might acting with altruism help our relationships with others?

End the lesson by giving students the following key messages:

- Altruism is important for our well-being!
- Altruism helps us make positive connections to other and builds a strong, caring community!
- Now you have many ideas for ways you can bring altruism into your daily life. Try to act with altruism whenever you can and make a note of how it impacts how you feel.
- Next time, we'll work together as a class to make a plan for bringing altruism to our community.



Reshaping the Brain

The brain is always changing; shaped by actions and interactions. Exploring and practising healthy habits for mind and body can strengthen your brain and enhance your mental health. Try a gratitude meditation or a walk outside and see how it feels!

Teaching to Diversity

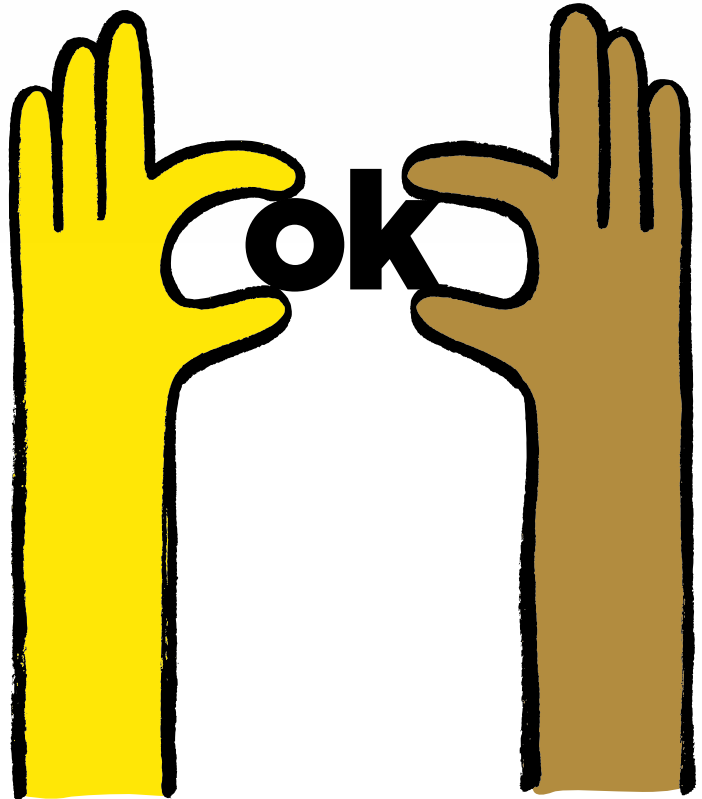
Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

Differentiation

- Provide students with written instructions for activities.
- Provide students with written definitions of new concepts/vocabulary in advance of the lesson.
- See simplified worksheet; for further simplification, have students give only one example for each category OR select one category.

Challengers

- Instead of providing the definition of altruism, invite students to look up a definition online or in the dictionary.
- Making connections: Have students give an example of altruism from a movie or TV show they watched recently.
- Making connections: Invite students to write or draw about how they think empathy and compassion are connected to altruism.
- Making connections: Have students come up with an example of historical altruism. Have them describe the event and identify what aspects show altruism.
- Have students journal about this prompt:
- If doing a good deed for others brings us joy and/or contentment, is doing something truly “selfless” even possible?



Altruism Book List

Picture Books

The Moccasins, Earl Einarson

The Water Walker, Joanne Robertson

The Gift Inside the Box, Adam Grant

Have You Filled a Bucket Today?, Carol McCloud

Chapter Book List:

I Am Malala (Young Reader's Edition), Malala Yousafzai
(also supports gratitude, resilience and compassion/
empathy)

*Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous
Actions Around the World*, Garth Sundem

Ban This Book, Alan Gratz

Random Acts, Valerie Sherrard

Acting with Altruism:

With a partner, write down some altruistic things you have done, seen or could do at home, school and in the larger community.

Home

1.

2.

3.

Community

1.

2.

3.

School

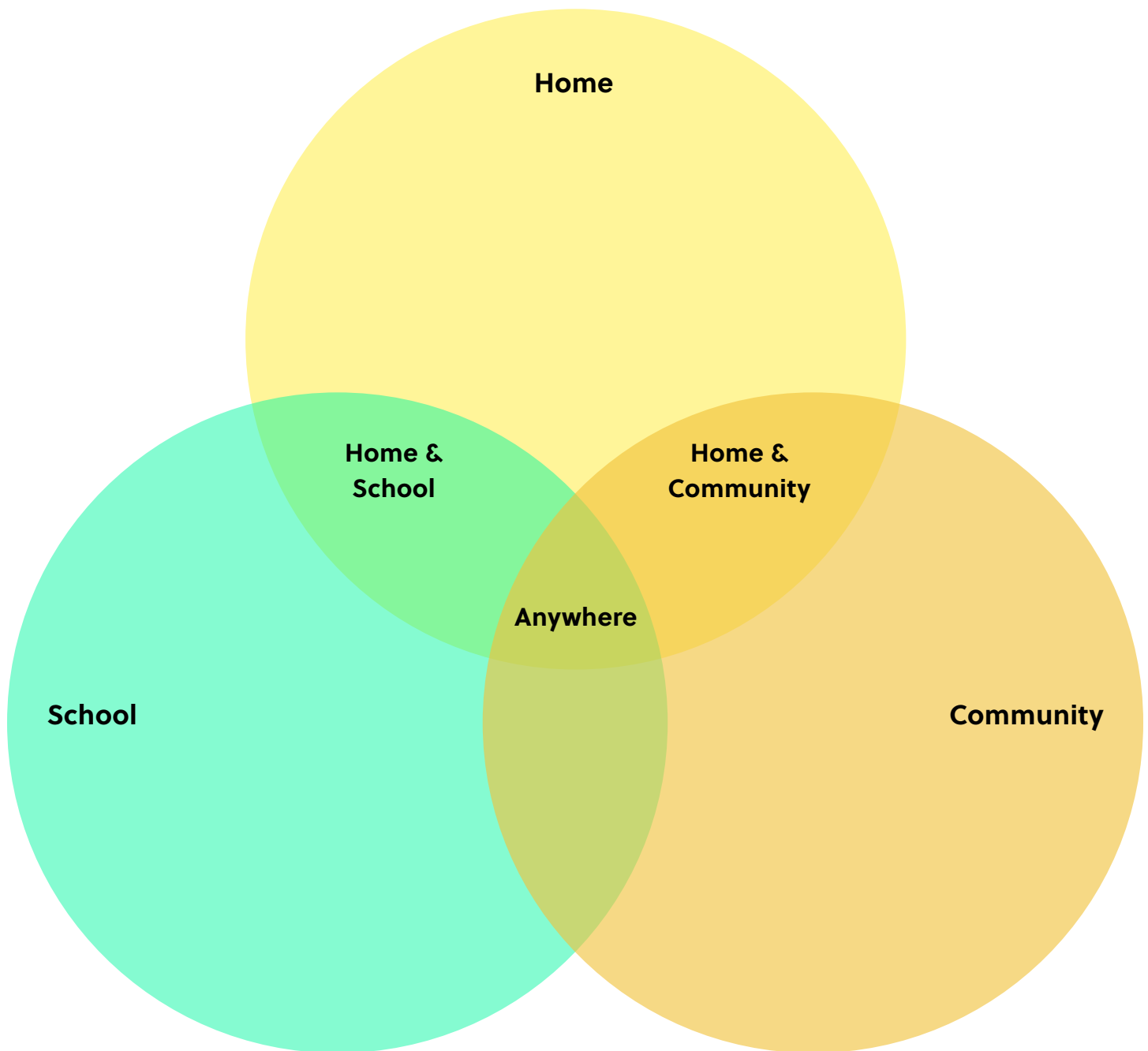
1.

2.

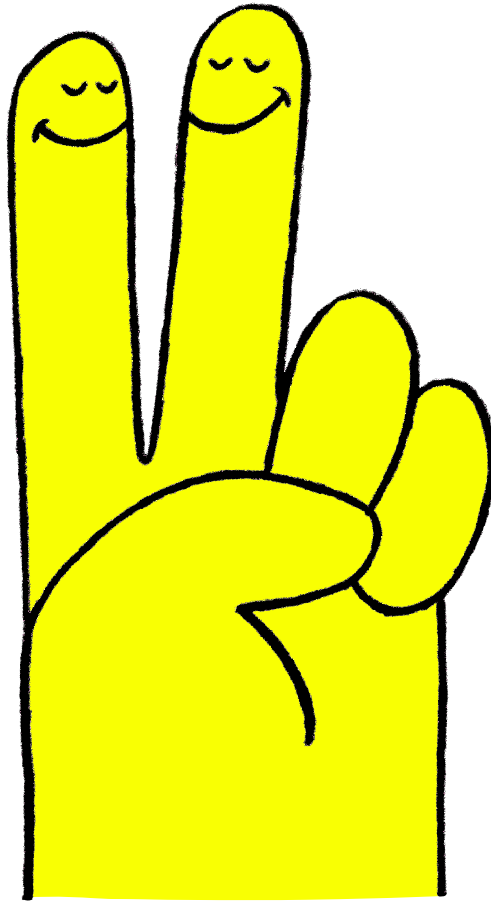
3.

Acting with Altruism:

With a partner, write down some altruistic things you have done, witnessed or could do at home, school and in the larger community.



Acting With Altruism



LESSON 11

THE ROAD TO POSITIVE WELL-BEING IN EVERY CLASSROOM STARTS HERE



Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to engage students in planning a student-directed action of altruism within their school or greater community. This lesson offers an opportunity for students to practise the social emotional skill of perspective-taking, when students consider what members of their community might need.

Objectives:

- Students reflect on how their recent experience incorporating acting with altruism impacted their well-being.
- Together, students consider a need they might be able to address in their school or larger community.
- Students make a plan to take action with altruism.

Estimated Time:

Time will vary depending on action plan; this lesson may take place over several days.

Materials:

Materials may vary dependent on the action plan.

Skills Learned:



CRITICAL THINKING



COMMUNICATION SKILLS



SELF-CARE SKILLS



SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS



SOCIAL AWARENESS SKILLS



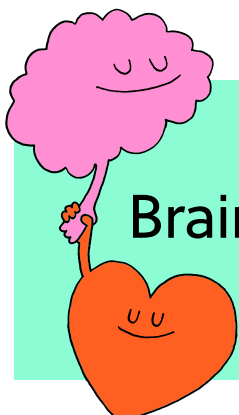
RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING



SELF-AWARENESS SKILLS



CREATIVE THINKING



Brain Bites

What's good for the body is good for the brain. What's good for the brain is good for the body! Throughout the lessons you will find brain icons with actions and facts about the brain. It is important for students to understand the importance of the brain and how it impacts our well-being.

Differentiation by Grade Level

Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

Kindergarten

- Part 2, Step 1: Instead of opening up this Investigate and Learn brainstorm session to people in their school or community that are in need of altruism, you may want to narrow this discussion down to people in their classroom. You can also frame this discussion as them being “altruism detectives” just as they were gratitude detectives in Unit 2. Discuss how they can show altruism when they see someone in need.

1st Grade

- Part 2, Step 1: Instead of opening up this Investigate and Learn brainstorm session to people in their school or community that are in need of altruism, you may want to narrow this discussion down to people in their classroom or school. You can also frame this discussion as them being “altruism detectives” just as they were gratitude detectives in Unit 2. Discuss how they can show altruism when they see someone in need.

2nd Grade

- Keep this lesson as is, differentiating as necessary for your unique group of students.

3rd Grade

- Keep this lesson as is, differentiating as necessary for your unique group of students.



We know that sleep has the power to boost brain power and young people should aim for about nine hours of sleep per night. What are some of the best ways to get a good night's sleep? Avoid screens, dim lights an hour before bed, lower the thermostat and try your best to stick to a routine.

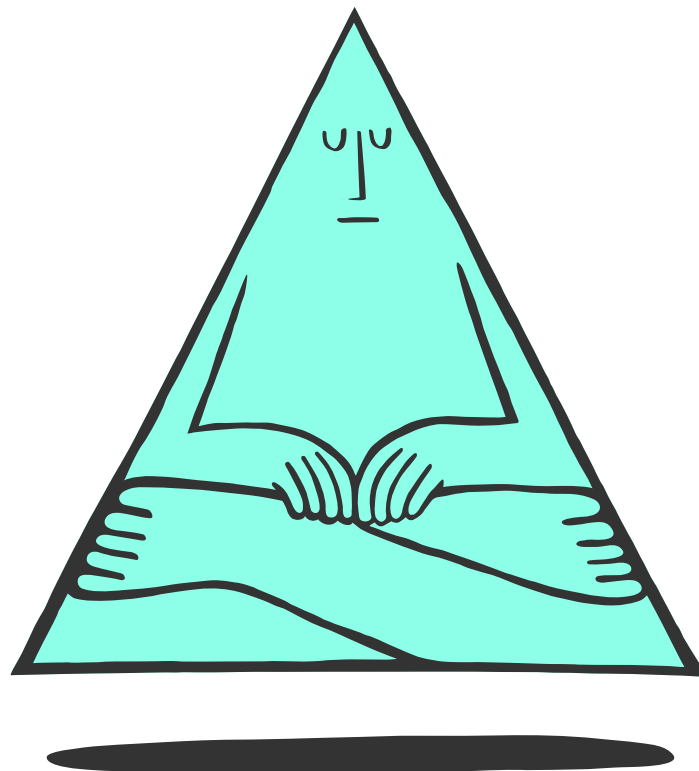
Part 1: Reflect and Connect (5 minutes)

Mindful Start (optional)

Objective: To prepare students for learning; to review lessons on mindful breathing.

Invite students to take a short mindful break.

- Let's begin by taking a short mindful moment.
- First, find a comfortable seat in your chair. Place your feet flat on the ground. Rest your hands on your lap. (Alternate: First, find a comfortable seat on the carpet. Rest your hands on your lap.)
- If it feels comfortable, you can close your eyes. If not, just look softly down toward your desk (or the floor).
- Now, just begin by noticing how your body feels sitting here.
- No need to do anything but notice what you feel.
- Turn your attention to your breath for a few moments.
- Try taking two more deep breaths in through your nose and slowly breathe out through your mouth. See if you can notice your breath filling up your belly...
- Before we start our lesson today, reflect for a moment on our work on gratitude. You might think about something that you feel grateful for ... maybe a kind action from somebody or something in nature that made you happy.
- When you are ready, you can open your eyes.



Part 2: Caring for Others (35 minutes)

Step 1: Investigate and Learn

Overview: As a class, invite students to consider a need that might be present in their school or greater community. You may phrase this as “problem areas” or “opportunities to help.”

Next, invite students to think about the types of altruistic action they would like to take as a class.

As an option, select from the following guiding comments to lead the activity:

- Today, we’re going to think about needs our school or community might have.
- For example, maybe new students in our school need help feeling connected.
- Let’s brainstorm together as a class: what are some needs (or opportunities to help) you think might exist in our school or larger community? (For example, new students feeling welcome; younger students feeling connected to older students; appreciation for office staff; animal shelter or food bank donations; litter removal from green space, recycling, etc.)
- Invite students to share and write their ideas on the board.

Next, prepare students for their altruism activity.

- Now, as a class, we are going to choose an action we can take to act with altruism and help meet a need in our community. For students who are still grasping the term “altruism,” you may prompt them to remind you what it means periodically throughout the activity.
- We will work together to make a plan and take action!

Step 2: Action Plan

Overview: Together, students will make a plan to act with altruism. This activity provides students with an opportunity to be altruistic and also serves as a community-building opportunity by having students work together to plan and take action.

This can be done in small groups or as a full class, depending on grade level and the separation of tasks.

- Facilitate a brainstorming and planning session.
- Simple ideas for acting with altruism:
 - Create a welcoming activity for new students.
 - Work with a younger grade to teach them about altruism and do a collaborative project such as picking up litter.

Provide students with guidelines for collaboration. First, foreshadow the next activity and ask students what skills they might need.

- Next, we will make a plan together to act with altruism toward a member of our school community or larger community.
- Remind students that, to carry out this plan, they are going to need to work together.
- Ask students to share some of the things they think they will need to do to be able to work well together. Write their ideas on the board and direct them to include the following:
 - Listen to one another’s ideas.
 - Be willing to compromise (“meet in the middle”).
 - Ensure everyone has equal chance to participate.
 - Keep a positive attitude and be willing to try.

To increase the challenge for older grades, you may invite your students to plan and take action anonymously. This reinforces a primary aspect of altruism—acting for the benefit of others with no benefit for the self.

Allow time for your students to develop their altruism plan and guide them through the planning steps. They will put their plan into action next time.

Note to Teacher: You can find additional resources about collaborative learning in Lesson 2 of the Foundational Module and additional resources about action planning in Lesson 3 of the Foundational Module.



The Hippocampus

The hippocampus is sometimes referred to as the librarian of the brain, because it is responsible for new learning and memories. Try tapping into a happy memory or reflecting on something new you learned this week and see how it feels; it might even give you a serotonin boost!



Teaching to Diversity

Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

Differentiation

- Provide a copy of written definitions and/or instructions for students to reference during planning tasks.
- Student planning ideas can be transcribed by a peer or student aid OR students can use a recording mechanism to express their ideas orally.
- Break the activity down into smaller sections, e.g.: Outline the altruism action plan, including materials needed, the time it will take and when you will be able to create it.
- When that is completed, focus on the second part of the plan by outlining how, when and where students will complete their altruistic mission.

You may have students come up with a shared “why statement,” first discussing why you are taking action to support this particular need and then determining a statement to continue to orient students toward this frame of thinking. This will come in handy in the next lesson when students activate their action plan.

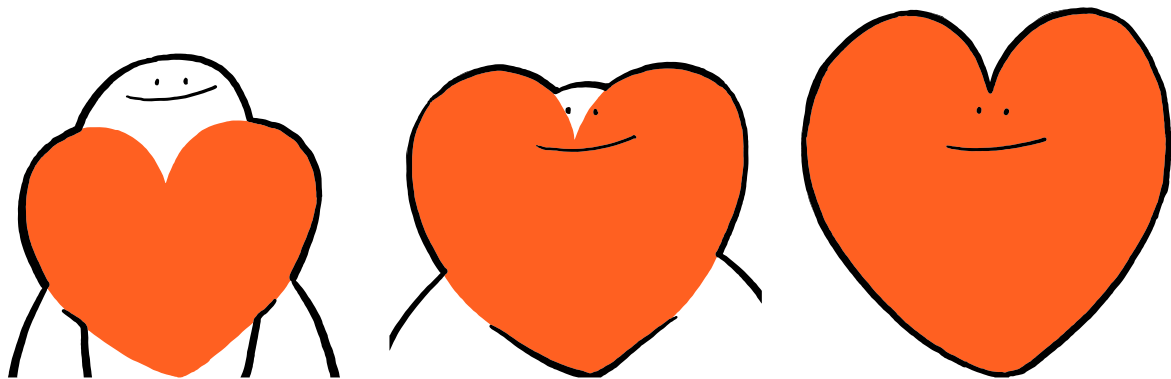
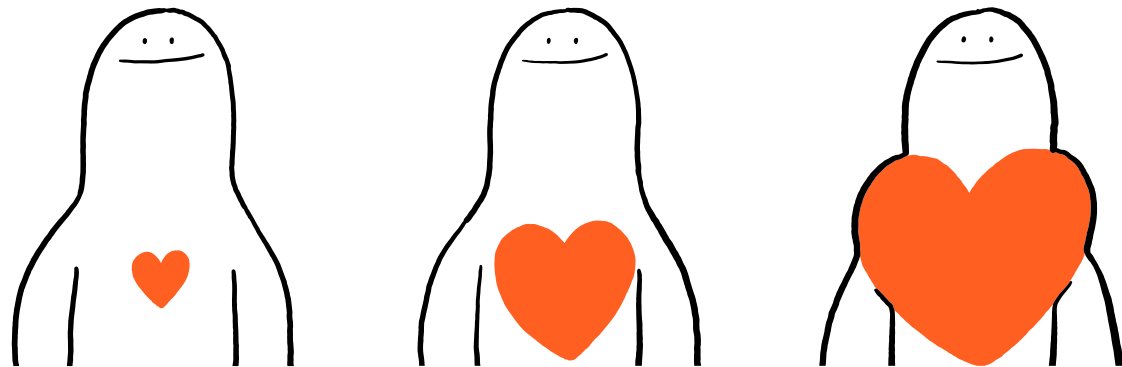
Challengers

- Have students compare/contrast their altruism action to one from another class subject, e.g., a book they’re reading, something from social studies/history, etc.
- Have students drill farther down into how they go about choosing their expressions of altruism. Did they choose it because it was something they would like? Does that mean the recipient will like it? This task encourages students to further use their perspective-taking skills and differentiate between kindness and altruism.
- Have students make separate plans for both their school community AND their greater community.



We know that sleep has the power to boost brain power and young people should aim for about nine hours of sleep per night. What are some of the best ways to get a good night’s sleep? Avoid screens, dim lights an hour before bed, lower the thermostat and try your best to stick to a routine.

Altruism in Action



LESSON 12



Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to engage students in a student-directed action of altruism within their school or greater community.

Objectives:

- Students embark on their action plan to bring altruism to their school community.
- Together, students participate in a collective act of altruism to address a need they have identified in their school or larger community.
- Teachers document students' action.

Estimated Time:

Time for this lesson may vary depending on the particular action.

Materials:

Materials will vary depending on the action plan.

Skills Learned:



CRITICAL THINKING



COMMUNICATION SKILLS



SELF-CARE SKILLS



SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS



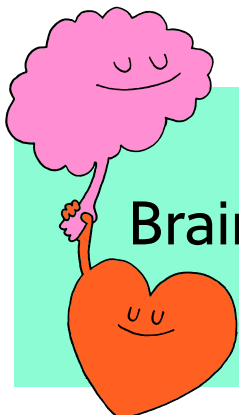
SOCIAL AWARENESS SKILLS



RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING



SELF-AWARENESS SKILLS



Brain Bites

What's good for the body is good for the brain. What's good for the brain is good for the body! Throughout the lessons you will find brain icons with actions and facts about the brain. It is important that we take the time to educate our students about the importance of understanding the brain and how it impacts our well-being.

Differentiation by Grade Level

Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade

- Part 2, Step 1: Instead of having students discuss in small groups, you may discuss as a whole class if that is easier for your group of students.

1st Grade

- Keep this lesson as is, differentiating as necessary for your unique group of students.

2nd Grade

- Keep this lesson as is, differentiating as necessary for your unique group of students.

3rd Grade

- Part 2, Step 2: Instead of having students complete a written reflection, consider having them create a digital presentation of what altruism is and their experience with altruism. For Part 2, Step 3, they can share their presentations with the class or in small groups.
- Part 3: Consider assigning the different Daily Actions to small groups for them to discuss and plan their actions. After a given amount of time, have the small groups reconvene and share with the class their experiences with the Daily Action they were assigned.



Brain imaging technology has revealed that listening to pleasurable music releases “feel-good” neurotransmitters. Dutch neuroscientist Jacob Jolij created a Feel Good Index that measures the number of positive references in a song, its tempo and its key. The songs on his list include “Walking on Sunshine” by Katrina and the Waves and “Living on a Prayer” by Bon Jovi. What are your favourite feel-good songs?

Part 1: Reflect and Connect (optional; 5 minutes)

Objective: To prepare students for learning; to review lessons on mindful breathing.

Invite students to take a short mindful break.

- Let's begin by taking a short mindful moment.
 - First, find a comfortable seat in your chair. Place your feet flat on the ground. Rest your hands on your lap. (Alternate: First, find a comfortable seat on the carpet. Rest your hands on your lap.)
 - If it feels comfortable, you can close your eyes. If not, just look softly down toward your desk (or the floor).
 - Now, just begin by noticing how your body feels sitting here.
 - No need to do anything but notice what you feel.
- Turn your attention to your breath for a few moments.
 - Try taking two more deep breaths in through your nose and slowly breathe out through your mouth. See if you can notice your breath filling up your belly...
 - Before we start our lesson today, reflect for a moment on our work on gratitude. You might think about something that you feel grateful for ... maybe a kind action from somebody or something in nature that made you happy.
 - When you are ready, you can open your eyes.



Boosting Our Energy

What are some activities that you know give you an energy boost? Talking to a friend, going for a bike ride, reading a book you like, eating your favourite snack and playing games are all examples of healthy activities that give your brain and body a boost! Choose an activity to try this week and see how it feels!

Part 2: Altruism in Action (time will vary)

Step 1: Finishing Touches

Overview: As a class, students will carry out their altruistic plan to support a need that might be present in their school or greater community.

- Depending on how far you got as a class with Lesson 11, you may be putting finishing touches on the class action plan or ready to bring the plan to life!
- Tips to support students (from the Well-being Canada Foundational Module Lesson 2): If students are struggling to complete the assignment, here are suggestions for ways to scaffold their thinking to reach the goal:
- Use prompting questions:
 - "What should you do first, next, last?"
 - "It looks like you're stuck. Can you identify the problem? Is it a time issue? A material issue?"
 - "It sounds like you've identified the problem. What element can you change to try and find a solution?"
- Encourage students to use their prior knowledge:
 - "Have you done an activity like this before? Can you remember any issues that came up that could be avoided by doing something differently?"
- Guide students to manage their resources:
 - Time reminders
 - Flexibility about materials
 - Task assignment reminders
- Support disagreements by providing resolution-centred.
- Offer communication repair prompts such as "I hear you saying _____. Is that correct?"
- Encourage students to identify how they're feeling so they can name it and move on. (E.g., "I see that your arms are crossed and your body is turned away. It looks to me like you're frustrated. Is that right?")

Step 2: Remembering Our "Why"

Before carrying out the action plan, take a moment to review:

- The meaning of altruism
- "Why" students are carrying out this particular action plan

This can be done through a brief brainstorm; you may even opt to craft a "why statement" and write it on the board as a way to orient students toward altruistic thinking and keep the motivation for the action plan top of mind throughout the activity.

Step 3: Take Action Document Learning

Important Note to Teacher: Document student action by taking pictures or a video to show students during their reflection and celebration. You may include students in the documentation of learning by inviting them to take turns taking pictures and video of their classmates.

This will further support student agency, as your class embarks on learning in action!

Teaching to Diversity

Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

Differentiation

- Provide a copy of written definitions and/or instructions for students to reference as they go to carry out their tasks.
- Break the activity down into smaller sections/ tasks.
- Assign tasks with fewer steps/parts (e.g., 1–2 instead of 3–4).

Challengers

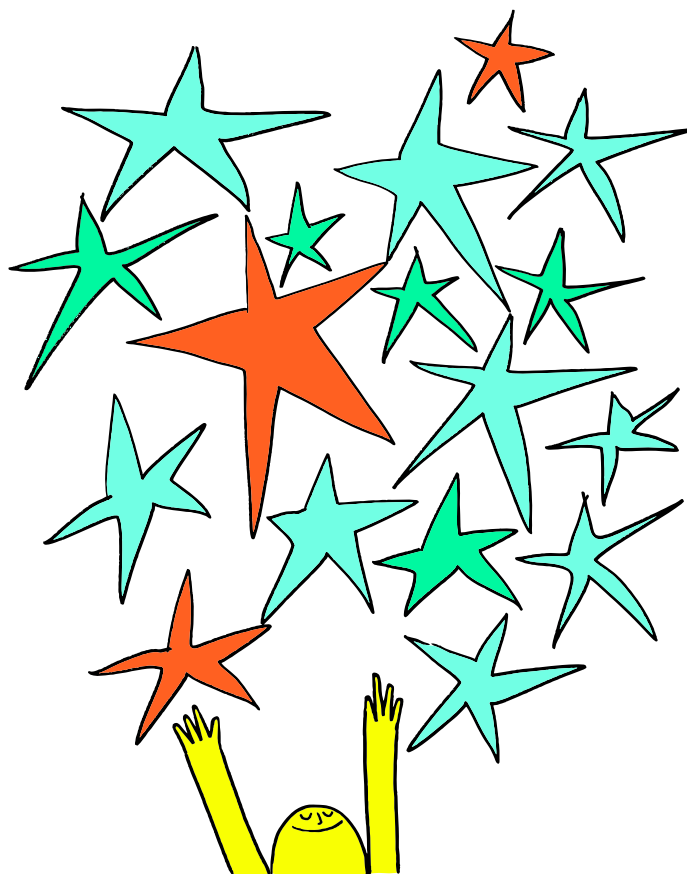
- Have students consider how their act of altruism could be extrapolated to a bigger ring of the community (e.g., if their current plan is for the school, see if they can describe a future plan for their town/city). This can be done individually or in small groups, as a journal exercise or conversation/oral presentation.
- If students completed plans for both their school community and their greater community, have them execute both.



Get Active!

Physical activity delivers the following benefits to brain health: improved cognition, performance on academic achievement tests, memory, executive function and quality of life. It can reduce the risk of depression and short-term feelings of anxiety and improve sleep.

Reflecting On and Celebrating Altruism



LESSON 13

THE ROAD TO POSITIVE WELL-BEING IN EVERY CLASSROOM STARTS HERE



Purpose

Together, students reflect on their work acting with altruism within the school or greater community.

Objectives:

- Students engage in self-reflection.
- Students listen to one another’s reflections on their shared experience acting with altruism within their community.
- Students consider how they can continue acting with altruism with daily actions.

Estimated Time:

40 minutes

This lesson can be separated by lesson parts and implemented across several days.

Materials:

Photos or video of student action.

Skills Learned:



CRITICAL THINKING



COMMUNICATION SKILLS



RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING



CREATIVE THINKING



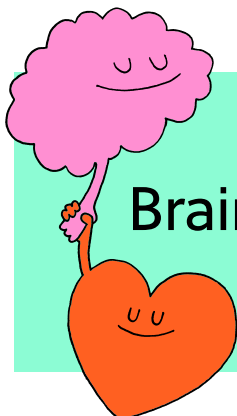
SELF-AWARENESS SKILLS



SELF-CARE SKILLS



SOCIAL AWARENESS SKILLS



Brain Bites

What’s good for the body is good for the brain. What’s good for the brain is good for the body! Throughout the lessons you will find brain icons with actions and facts about the brain. It is important for students to understand the importance of the brain and how it impacts our well-being.

Differentiation by Grade Level

Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

*Differentiation for this lesson will greatly depend on your class discussions and decisions you have made as a class to express altruism, however here are some tips that may help:

Kindergarten

- Part 2, Step 1: If you have kept their altruistic actions focused on the classroom, you may consider your "Altruism in Action" as something like an "Altruism Jar" (similar to the "Gratitude Jar" from lesson 5). Have students keep track of when they do or see altruism in action so they can share out later.

1st Grade

- Part 2, Step 1: If you have kept their altruistic actions focused on the classroom, see the kindergarten differentiation tip above. If students have chosen to take action on altruism within your school, help support and guide them to carry out acts of altruism that are achievable and meaningful.

2nd Grade

- Part 2, Step 1: If your students have chosen to express altruism in the community, consider guiding your students towards ideas that they can achieve from school campus, such as writing letters to seniors in your community, or creating toys for animal shelters from old clothes.

3rd Grade

- Part 2, Step 1: If possible, explore the possibility of allowing students to think of acts of altruism outside of school campus. This may require more planning, such as permission slips and transportation, so be sure to work within the guidelines of your school. If off campus altruism is possible, however, it can allow opportunities for your students to experience leadership and civic engagement in their community.



Get Active!

Physical activity delivers the following benefits to brain health: improved cognition, performance on academic achievement tests, memory, executive function and quality of life. It can reduce the risk of depression and short-term feelings of anxiety and improve sleep.

Part 1: Reflect and Connect (5 minutes)

Objective: To prepare students for learning; to review lessons on mindful breathing.

Invite students to take a short mindful break.

- Let's begin by taking a short mindful moment.
 - First, find a comfortable seat in your chair. Place your feet flat on the ground. Rest your hands on your lap. (Alternate: First, find a comfortable seat on the carpet. Rest your hands on your lap.)
 - If it feels comfortable, you can close your eyes. If not, just look softly down toward your desk (or the floor).
 - Now, just begin by noticing how your body feels sitting here.
- No need to do anything but notice what you feel.
 - Turn your attention to your breath for a few moments.
 - Try taking two more deep breaths in through your nose and slowly breathe out through your mouth. See if you can notice your breath filling up your belly...
 - Before we start our lesson today, reflect for a moment on our work on gratitude. You might think about something that you feel grateful for ... maybe a kind action from somebody or something in nature that made you happy.
 - When you are ready, you can open your eyes.



Part 2: Reflect and Celebrate (15 minutes)

Purpose: To provide time for students to reflect on their group action of altruism, how the experience may have impacted their well-being and how they think it might have impacted the recipient of their action.

Step 1: A Walk Down Memory Lane

Choose one of the two following options to prompt student reflection.

Option 1: Reflecting on Documentation

Display the photos or videos that were taken during students' altruistic action. This can be accomplished with a slide show, video or photos displayed around the room for students to view as a gallery.

Instructions to students:

- As you look at the pictures (or video), notice how you feel as you remember our action meeting a need within our community.

Option 2: Making Memories (you may choose to do both of these steps for older grades)

Place students in groups of three or four. Invite each group to share their favourite memory from their altruistic action with one another.

Give groups about 10 minutes to share in their small groups.

Then, invite each group to share out to the larger class.

Step 2: Reflect

Invite students to take a few minutes to reflect on their own personal experience working with their classmates to build connection and care in their classroom.

Instructions to students:

- Take a few minutes to write down or draw a picture about your own experience with your action plan to bring altruism to your community.
- Some ideas to get you started:
 - What did you do?
 - How did it feel to work together as a class?
 - How are you feeling now, after our work together?
 - How could acting with altruism impact your own well-being?

Provide each with a copy of the Reflection Sheet found at the end of this lesson, to help frame their thinking. Students may write or draw about their experience.

Option: Create a gallery walk with student reflections on display. And/or invite students to bring their reflections home to share with their families and caregivers.

Step 3: Connect

Shared Reflection

Facilitate a class discussion focused on sharing students' reflections with one another. Ensure students engage in respectful, active listening with one another.

Facilitate student discussion and write student responses on the board.

- How did you feel during our experience with altruism?
- How do you think acting with altruism could be good for our well-being?
- How do you think the recipient of our altruism (the person/people you were helping) felt?

Part 3: Daily Action (20 minutes)

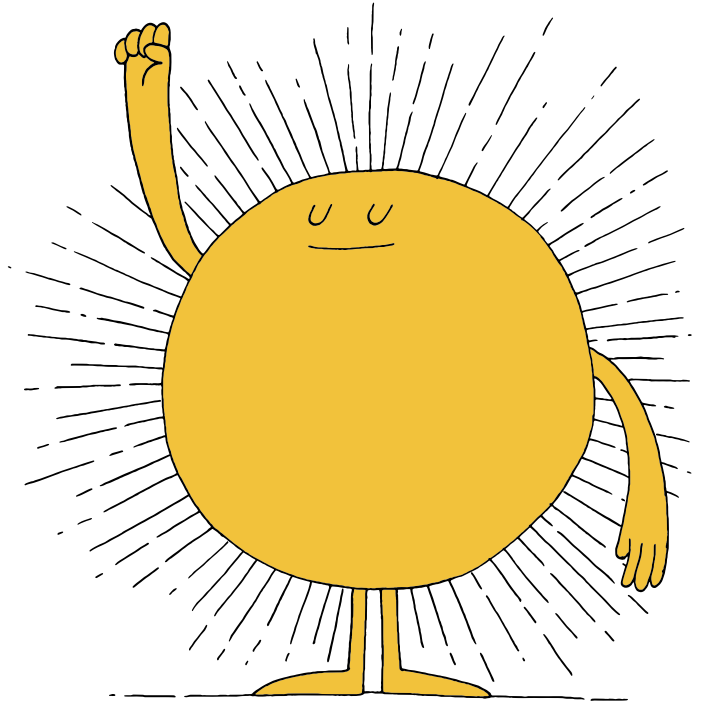
See the Altruism Daily Actions that are provided at the end of this lesson. Either use the suggested examples or invite students to generate their own ideas to promote altruism for self, school, community and home and to share these ideas with the rest of the class.

Ask students to consider Daily Actions that they could bring into their own life.

Guiding questions:

- Now that we have worked together to meet a need and act with altruism within our community, what would be some next steps to continue to act with altruism?
- Using the Daily Actions or your own ideas, think about how you can add more altruism in your life at school, in your community and at home.

Note: Remind students that being altruistic does not have to be complicated or take a lot of time—a simple kind action makes a big impact!



Movement and Well-being

Endorphins are “feel good” neurotransmitters that are released when a person gets hurt, but also during exercise or laughter. In addition to blocking pain, endorphins can make people happy. Try going for a walk or reading a funny story and notice how it makes you feel!

Teaching to Diversity

Optional: Use the following ideas to help you to calibrate the lesson to your particular group of students.

Differentiation

- Instead of having students write down their ideas, have them discuss with a partner.
- Provide a copy of written definitions for students to reference during reflection/planning tasks.
- Student reflections can be transcribed by a peer or student aid OR students can use a recording device to express their ideas orally.

Challengers

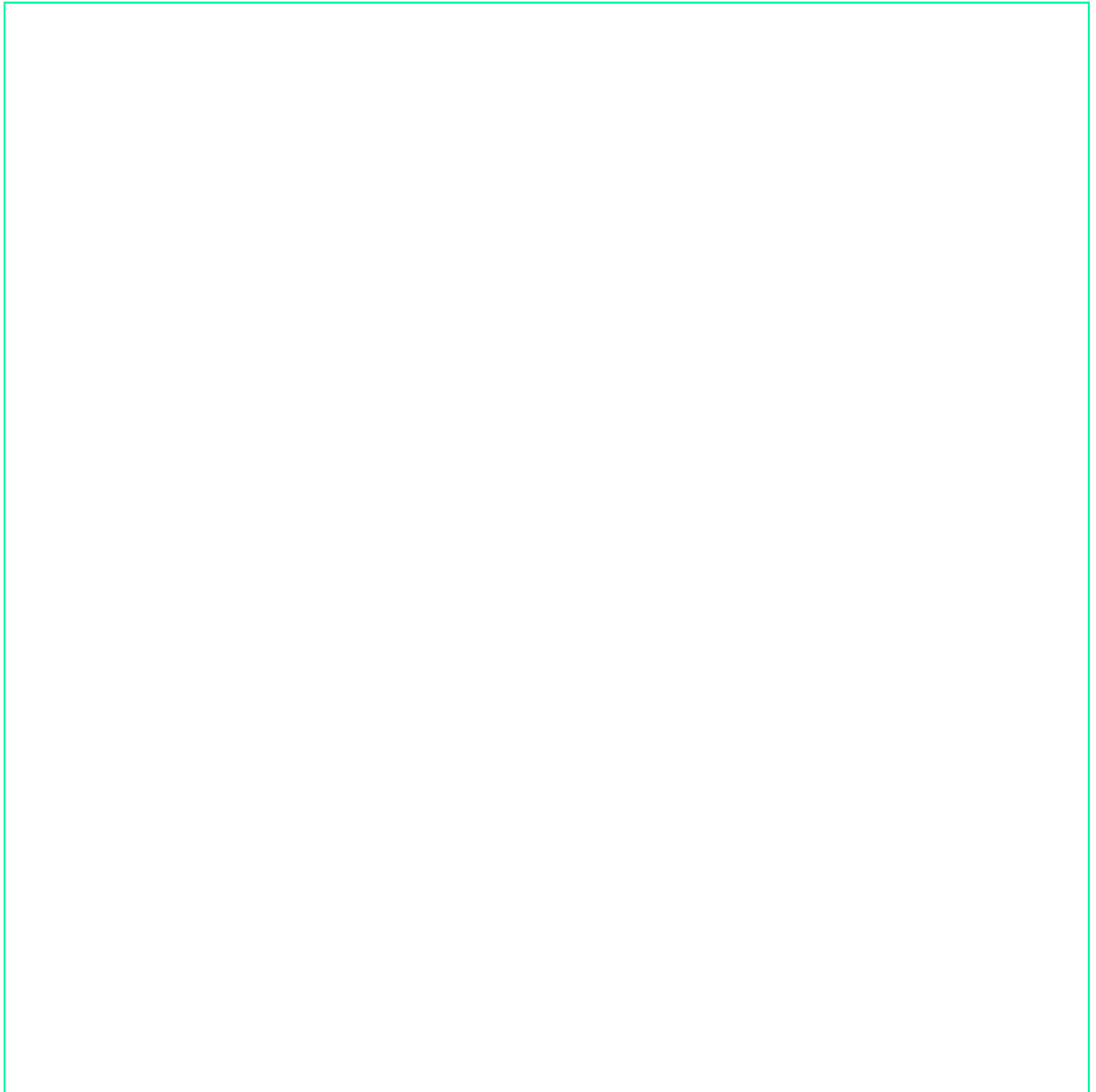
- Have students reflect on an experience they can think of from their past that now, having had this experience, they would do differently to act MORE altruistically.
- Offer them the imaginary gift of time travel and have them outline:
 - What was the circumstance?
 - What did you do?
 - What would you have done differently?
- Have students write a magazine/blog article about altruism that includes:
 - An explanation of what altruism is.
 - Why it's meaningful for the individual practising and those who receive the kindness.
 - List five to 10 ways to act with altruism.



Brain imaging technology has revealed that listening to pleasurable music releases “feel-good” neurotransmitters. Dutch neuroscientist Jacob Jolij created a Feel Good Index that measures the number of positive references in a song, its tempo and its key. The songs on his list include “Walking on Sunshine” by Katrina and the Waves and “Living on a Prayer” by Bon Jovi. What are your favourite feel-good songs?

Reflecting on Altruism

Write or draw about your experience acting with altruism. How did you feel? How did others around you feel?



Daily Actions for Altruism

Daily actions are designed to promote transferable learning by inviting students to explore the module topics across four life domains: Self, School, Community and Home.

After implementing the altruism lesson, students can be provided time to explore each of the following related daily actions. When introducing these actions, you could explain the science behind them and perhaps provide examples to get students going. For example, research has shown that when you help others, you help yourself.

You might even experience “helper’s high”—a feeling of energy, inner warmth and calm created by a release of endorphins in the brain. The phenomenon was first identified by Allan Luks when he surveyed more than a thousand volunteers on the connection between altruism and health.

Following the exploration of daily actions, students are invited to write a personal reflection of their experience applying the daily actions.

Self: Try these three steps to “take in the good”:

- Think of a time when you helped someone who needed it. What was that experience like for you? How did you feel?
- Tap into those good feelings.
- Let the feelings sink in, noticing where you feel them in your body. See if you can stay with these feelings for 10, 20 or even 30 seconds in a row.

Neuroscientist Dr. Rick Hanson has found that taking in the good helps to turn positive events into positive memories and experiences, which is good for our brain and our overall well-being.

Classroom/School: Finish this sentence:

Today, I will help in my classroom/school by _____.

Write down one small thing. For example, open a door for someone (not only is it a simple way to help, research shows that good deeds inspire more good deeds).

Community: Be an undercover agent for good

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to do one small thing for someone else in your community without them knowing it was you. For example, you could leave a note of thanks on the bus driver’s seat or pick up some garbage you see in the schoolyard, making it a cleaner environment for everyone to enjoy.

Home: Invite your family to join in!

Identify something you can do together with your family to help someone out. Perhaps go through your clothes or books and donate something for someone else in need.

**WELL~
BEING
CANADA**



wellbeing-canada.ca