



Responsibility

Sub-Concepts Covered: Self-discipline, Kindness

Kindness in the Classroom lessons teach kindness skills through a step-by step framework of Inspire, Empower, Act, Reflect and Share. Each lesson starts with the ‘share’ step to reinforce learning from previous lessons. The ‘act’ piece is woven into the lessons but really takes place in the projects.

The Responsibility Unit is our fifth unit in a series of six. It focuses primarily on giving students strategies to help them make responsible choices and to be responsible with regard to themselves, to others, and to the environment. There is a large science component to this unit, so if you are studying animals, habitats, conservation, etc., you may be able to pair these lessons with your regular content lessons. As with other units, we hope to connect the concepts in this unit back to kindness, which is integral throughout the series.

Unit Objective

Students will:

- Explore how we can make responsible decisions regarding our own bodies and minds.
- Explore how we can make responsible decisions regarding our shared spaces with others.
- Explore how we can make responsible decisions regarding the environment.
- Evaluate how different decisions impact habitat, especially the environment.
- Discuss the impact of responsible decision making on quality of life and habitat.

Student Introduction

Welcome to the Responsibility Unit! Over the next few weeks, we are going to build some superpowers around responsibility, which means we learn how we are responsible for many things, including ourselves, the spaces we share with others (like our classroom!), and the environment. We will talk about real-life situations where we evaluate how we can make responsible decisions to keep ourselves, others, and the environment healthy and happy. We are going to focus on these important areas:

- Making responsible decisions regarding our own bodies and minds!
- Making responsible decisions regarding our shared spaces with others (like our homes and school)!
- Making responsible decisions regarding the environment (we get to study special animal habitats)!

Let's get started with our first lesson!

Unit Lessons

Lesson Title	Lesson Objectives	Materials Required
Lesson 1 My Body Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explore responsible and irresponsible decisions with regard to taking care of our bodies and minds.● Identify parts of the habitat of the body (physical body, mind, heart) and evaluate ways to keep them safe and healthy.● Explore how we can make responsible decisions regarding our bodies and minds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Personal Habitat handout☐ Example handout for the teacher
Lesson 2 Our Shared Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain the difference between responsible and irresponsible decisions with regard to shared habitats.● Identify shared habitats (bedrooms, bathrooms, school busses, classroom, lunchroom, library, etc.) and evaluate ways to keep them safe and healthy.● Explore how we can make responsible decisions regarding our shared habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Various stock photos (see lesson)
Lesson 3 Habitats in Nature: The Impact of the Beaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain the difference between responsible and irresponsible decisions with regard to natural habitats.● Identify natural habitats (lakes, rivers, forests, etc.) and evaluate ways to keep them safe and healthy.● Explore how we can make responsible decisions regarding our natural habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ “Beavers” from PBS Learning Media (5 min): https://wdse.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.beaver/beavers/#.Wjh7XFWnGM8
Lesson 4 One Bag, One Bracelet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Investigate the impact of plastic bags on the environment and economy.● Evaluate how different decisions impact habitat, especially the environment.● Discuss the impact of responsible decision making on quality of life and habitat.● Create recycled bracelets using plastic bags.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">☐ Plastic bags☐ Scissors☐ Duct tape☐ Regular tape

Unit Projects

Project Title**Project Overview****Materials Required**

Project 1

Responsibility for
Ourselves, Others, and
the Environment

This project in the Responsibility Unit helps students recognize all of the ways they are responsible for themselves, the spaces they share with others, and the environment. The focus of this project demonstrates how making responsible decisions is not always the same as making easy decisions. Students will evaluate choices they can make for each of the three habitats (and the environment in general) studied in the unit, and determine which is the responsible choice and why. They will use popsicle sticks to illustrate their choices and use them to make a beaver dam replica.

- Three different popsicle sticks, enough for 3 per student: one for the self habitat; one for the habitats you share with others; and one for nature's habitat or the environment.
- Materials to create the beaver dam bulletin board/display (as shown in the lesson)

Project 2

Signs of Responsibility

This project in the Responsibility Unit helps students recognize all of the ways they are responsible for themselves, the spaces they share with others, and the environment. Students will brainstorm ways to take care of themselves and their classroom by making responsible choices about working, cooperating, staying organized, and reducing waste where possible.

- Pieces of paper (white and color)
 - Markers
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