

Cooperation

COOPERATION means getting along with each other and working together to accomplish a common goal.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **COOPERATION**. Explain that cooperation means working together and getting along. Read: **Cooperation at school is very important. More things can be accomplished when people cooperate and work together.** Brainstorm with students how they cooperate with each other during the day. Examples include: playing a game at recess, doing group activities, working in learning centers, sharing materials, etc. Call on students to interpret the following quote: **“An opportunity for greatness is better achieved through cooperation than in isolation.”** As time allows, have students use the quote as a topic sentence to write a paragraph about the benefits of cooperating with others. Remind students to use correct punctuation and capitalization.

School/Home Link Ask students to discuss with a family member how cooperation helps accomplish goals.

LESSON 2

Review the definition of **COOPERATION**. Read the following statement by the Greek poet Homer: **“A job is easier when a lot of people share it.”** Tell students to think of jobs that are easier if many people cooperate. Examples include: cleaning the dishes after a family dinner, putting away games and toys after playing with friends, picking up litter from the playground, etc. Discuss why it is important to share responsibilities. Ask students to list some responsibilities where they can cooperate at school. (Examples include: work together to keep the classroom clean, take turns erasing the board, emptying trash cans, etc.) Encourage students to watch for cooperation in the classroom today and notice how it makes jobs easier.

School/Home Link Ask students to work with a family member to create a plan to cooperate by sharing household responsibilities.

LESSON 3

Review the definition of **COOPERATION**. Tell students that cooperation can help accomplish tasks that are too hard for one person to do all by himself or herself. Ask students to listen to the following situations and explain how other students could help by cooperating. Read:

- Cheyanne was trying to carry a box to the closet, but it was too heavy.
- Joe was trying to pick up litter on the school grounds, but there was too much.
- Logan was trying to carry his books and his art project, but he didn't have enough hands.

As time allows, have students think of other situations where cooperating could help another person. Have students summarize, orally or on paper, why working together is important.

School/Home Link Ask students to talk with a family member about how cooperation can help accomplish goals that are too hard for one person to do alone.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **COOPERATION**. Tell students that there are many different ways to cooperate and work together. Ask them to listen to the following story and count how many times they hear examples of cooperation. Read: **Amelia and Curt drew up plans to build a fort in their backyard. 1) Curt brought the hammer and Amelia brought the nails. 2) One held the boards in place, while the other hammered. 3) They took turns painting the walls bright green. 4) When the fort was complete, Amelia brought some bread and Curt brought some peanut butter for sandwiches. 5) After eating lunch, they played “Go Fish” together in their new fort.** Ask students how many examples of working together they counted. Have them identify each example and discuss how it illustrates cooperation. As time allows, ask students to write the story in sequential order, using their own words.

School/Home Link Ask students to share their story with a family member.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **COOPERATION**. Tell students to stand up and join hands to form a large circle. Instruct students to walk in a clockwise direction. While the group is moving, tell three to four students to move counter clockwise. Ask a student to describe what happened to the movement. Compare the example of people moving in opposite directions to what happens when people do not cooperate. Help students apply the principle by discussing specific examples of cooperation in school. Examples include: teams, group projects, going to and from the lunchroom, etc.

School/Home Link Ask students to try the circle movement with family members and discuss the importance of cooperating in a family.

Louisiana Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations

ELA-1-E6, ELA-4-E2, ELA-4-E5, ELA-4-E7, ELA-3-E3, ELA-7-E1, ELA-7-E2, ELA-7-E4