

Perseverance

PERSEVERANCE means not giving up. It means to continue to try even though something is difficult or hard.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Share an experience of a time when you had to persevere to reach a goal. (Perhaps it was when you were studying to be a teacher or pass an important exam.) Write the heading on the board: ***Perseverance Helps Me Succeed.*** Invite students to give examples when they had to use perseverance to achieve a task or goal. Examples include: riding a bike, reading a long story, tying shoes, etc. As time allows, ask them to describe why they persevered and how it felt to accomplish a goal.
School/Home Link Ask students to talk with a family member about a time they had to use perseverance to accomplish a task.

LESSON 2

Review the meaning of **PERSEVERANCE**. Review Aesop's fable "***The Tortoise and the Hare.***" (A tortoise and a hare entered a race. The hare, knowing he was faster than the tortoise, played around while the tortoise continued moving slowly and steadily toward the finish line and won the race.) Ask students which character showed perseverance during the race. Rewrite the fable to predict what might have happened if the tortoise had become discouraged and not persevered until the end of the race. As time allows, invite students to read their stories.
School/Home Link Ask students to share the story of "***The Tortoise and the Hare***" with a family member.

LESSON 3

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Read: **Early in our country's history, people traveled west to find freedom and a better life in a new land. The trail was hard and these pioneers suffered from harsh weather, lack of food, and hostile conditions.** Explain how perseverance helped the pioneers. Ask students how many of them would be willing to go through similar challenges to settle a new land today. Discuss with students how perseverance is still required of modern day pioneers. Examples include traveling in outer space or exploring the depths of the ocean.
School/Home Link Ask students to talk with a family member about modern day pioneering that requires perseverance, such as space explorations or exploring the ocean.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Teach students the following saying about perseverance: **If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.** Ask students to relate the saying to the following scenario. Read: **Your team is in the playoffs for the state softball championship. It is your turn to bat. You strike out for the third time in the game. You feel like throwing down the bat, blaming the pitcher, and telling your coach that you quit, but you don't. Instead you decide to keep trying your best every time you get a chance to bat.** As time allows, tell students to get with a partner to Think – Pair – Share. (Think about something they want to accomplish that will require perseverance, talk to their partner about how perseverance can help, share their ideas with each other.) Examples include: learning to play piano, sports, drawing, improved handwriting, dance, etc. As time allows, call on students to share how perseverance could help them reach their goal. Encourage students to stick with their task and do their best to achieve their goal.
School/Home Link Ask students to share the saying, "**If at first you don't succeed, try, try again**" with a family member.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Read: **Albert Einstein was a very intelligent man who won many honors and awards for his scientific discoveries. He believed much of his success came from his perseverance. He said: "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." What do you think he meant by, "stay with problems longer"?** (Allow time for discussion) Explain that people who succeed often have to work for a long time to reach their goals. Encourage students to persevere like Albert Einstein and "stay with problems" until they are resolved. Invite them to make a Perseverance Pledge - a promise to continue to work and overcome obstacles - by holding up their right hand and repeating the following pledge: **"I pledge I will not give up and quit. I pledge to keep working and do my best, even when things get hard. I pledge to exhibit self-confidence and persevere toward the goal."** As time allows, write the pledge on a poster board and have students sign their names.
School/Home Link Ask students to talk with a family member about making a Perseverance Pledge.

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