



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**. Read the following story to illustrate the importance of perseverance: **Michael always wanted to be a member of his high school varsity basketball team. The first year he tried out, he was not picked for the team. Michael did not give up. During the next year he worked hard and improved a little every day. The day before tryouts Michael was very nervous. On the day of tryouts, Michael did his best, and the hard work paid off. Michael Jordan, who would become one of the greatest basketball players of our time, had made the varsity basketball team.** Ask students to think of a time when they had persevered to accomplish a goal. As time allows, ask students to share their experiences.

[School/Home Link](#) Ask students to tell a family member the story about Michael Jordan.

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 could include journeys to the moon and outer space. As time allows, have students identify potential problems modern day pioneers may encounter and how they may solve them.

[School/Home Link](#) Tell students to ask a family member to describe modern day pioneering that requires perseverance, such as space explorations or traveling to the moon.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Read: **There are many true stories of people who have overcome huge obstacles with determination and perseverance. Children born with deformities have grown up and become famous athletes.** (Olympic figure skating gold medalist Kristie Yamaguchi, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman, and American Soccer player Mia Hamm.) **A major league baseball pitcher had a deformed arm!** (Jim Abbott) **A man who had stuttered since he was a little boy became a famous country music singer.** (Mel Tillis) Discuss how they were able to succeed by persevering. As an extended assignment, have students research other athletes that have overcome physical challenges to succeed. [School/Home Link](#) Ask students to share one of the examples of perseverance with a family member and discuss how it can help inspire him or her to persevere.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **PERSEVERANCE**. Tell the class they will be making a Perseverance Pledge - a promise to never give up. Read: **Hold up your right hand and repeat after me. I pledge to always do my best even when times get hard. I pledge to accept my accomplishments even if they fall short of my true goal, and I pledge to exhibit pride in myself. I pledge to persevere toward the goal before me.** Have students calculate the total number of pledges for perseverance said in the class. Post the total with the caption ____ **Pledges of Perseverance.**

[School/Home Link](#) Ask students to tell a family member about their "Pledge of Perseverance", and encourage other family members to make one too.

Louisiana Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations

ELA-2-M6, ELA-4-M2, ELA-4-M4, ELA-4-M5 ELA-4-M7 ELA-7-M2, LA-1-M1, ELA-1-M4, ELA-7-M1, ELA-3-M, C1-A-M7, C1-B-M5