

RESPONSIBILITY

Teacher Resource

WHAT IS RESPONSIBILITY?

Owning my actions, using good judgment and practicing self-control.

BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.3.R.1.1** Identify skills needed when working with others. Clarification: Listening, cooperating, taking turns and compromise.
- ✓ **HE.4.R.2.1** Discuss ways to take responsibility for one's actions.
- ✓ **HE.5.R.2.1** Describe the importance of having the courage to do the right thing even when it is difficult.

PURPOSE

- These interactive activities will help your students continue to explore the characteristic of responsibility and how to use good judgment, self-control and owning their actions. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing responsibility.



Suggested Introduction:

"Today, we are going to explore what responsibility looks like in different situations and the skills needed to work well with others. Responsibility means making good choices, showing self-control and owning your actions. When you are responsible, people can trust you to keep your promises and do what you say you will. We also demonstrate responsibility every time we use good judgment by thinking before we act. For example, if someone accidentally bumps into you on the playground, instead of getting upset, you can choose to give him or her the benefit of the doubt and assume it was unintentional. This displays good judgment and responsibility."



Activities to Build Responsibility:

1 Historical Figure Connection

Share with students this quote from Abraham Lincoln: "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." How does the quote from Abraham Lincoln apply to students' lives? Ask students to provide examples of tasks they are responsible for at home and school.

Examples of tasks could include:

- Making their bed
- Completing their homework
- Taking care of a pet

Lead students in a discussion about how important it is to make a daily commitment to take care of responsibilities, even those we may not enjoy, and how this helps with long-term goal setting as well.

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Activities to Build Responsibility (Continued):

2 Classroom Responsibilities

Discuss with students your classroom's plans or goals within the next week or month. For example, is the class working toward finishing a reading goal, writing in their planners each day or working to compromise with each other during group assignments? Write down the class goal(s) in a visible location and ask each student to write down how he or she will take **responsibility** for this shared goal. Check in as a class periodically on progress toward the class goal(s).

3 Responsibilities in Government – Local, State and National Level

Explain to students that government has local, state and national levels. Students will recognize that each level of government has its own unique structures and **responsibilities**. Share **responsibilities** for each level of government and ask students to identify if these are local, state or national.

Examples include:

- National – produces coins and paper money
- State – conducts and validates elections
- Local – provides services such as water supply or fire protection

Discuss with students why it is important to have **responsibilities** of government divided amongst national, state and local governments (e.g., it wouldn't be good if every state had its own money, a national fire department wouldn't be able to protect local communities).



Suggested Wrap-Up:

"Today, we have explored the characteristic of **responsibility** and identified skills needed to work well with others. Remember, whether it's helping at home, being kind to friends or taking care of belongings, every little act of **responsibility** can make a big difference in our home, school and community."