



## Lesson 1: What Does Philanthropy Mean in Your Life?

### Learning Target

- Define philanthropy and explain, "Why Project Heart?"
- Describe what giving looks like in daily life and in the community.

### Recommended Time

30-40 Minutes

### Lesson Overview and Teacher Prep

Optional: Give the Middle School Pre-Assessment before starting Lesson 1 of the Project Heart Middle School Curriculum to measure students' prior knowledge of philanthropy. After completing Lesson 10 of the Project Heart Middle School Curriculum, give the Middle School Post-Assessment to measure student learning and growth. Both the Pre- and Post-Assessment are located in the Middle School Educator Guide.

- **Warm-Up (5 min):** Introduce the concept of using talents to help others.
- **Activity (10 min):** Focused small group discussions about giving 3Ts to help others. Learn about charitable foundations.
- **Optional Activity (10 minutes):** Play the ABCs of Philanthropy game.
- **Reflection for Action (5 min):** Ask students to apply their learning to make a difference with their 3Ts.
- Materials used as needed: Lesson One Worksheet, Presentation Slides (as PowerPoint or Google Slides)

### Philanthropy Objectives

- Create a list of ways to apply today's learning about philanthropy to family, school and community.
- Plan to incorporate philanthropy into daily and weekly schedules.

### Anchor Standards

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.9** - Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

### Common Core Standards

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6.4** - Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 6 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1** - Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

### Social Studies Standards

- **Individuals, Groups, & Institutions** - g. show how groups and institutions work to meet individual needs and promote the common good, and identify examples of where they fail to do so.

### Economics Standards

- **Content Standard 10: Institutions** - Nonprofit organizations are established primarily for religious, health, educational, civic, or social purposes and are exempt from certain taxes.





**Warm-Up: Do Your Part to Help Others** (Video clip prompt for quick-write activity - 5 minutes)

Slide 2 - Play video clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKwMxDvqegE>

- Tell the class that the students at Lincoln Middle School in Colorado worked together to make a global impact.
- After the video, ask the students the following questions:
  - What daily tasks do you use electricity for?
  - How does your school use electricity?
  - How do hospitals use electricity?
  - How would you cope with no electricity? What types of changes would you need to make to your daily routine?

**[TEACHER TIP]** Use this warm-up to discuss the difference that an individual can make.

**Activity: Use Your 3Ts to Help a Cause Important to You** (Small Group Discussion about 3Ts – 10 minutes)

Slide 3 – 3Ts of philanthropy

- Explain to students that there are three ways they can make an impact on causes that are important to them. They can use their **time**, **talents** and/or **treasures**.
  - Volunteering **time** is one way of giving back. To volunteer means to do something to help people, your community, etc., without getting paid. By dedicating hours to community service, you can impact lives without giving financial or material resources. Giving your time can look like serving meals at a food bank, walking shelter dogs, or picking up trash at your school or local park.
  - Our **talents** are our skills and expertise – the things we're good at and enjoy doing. By using our talents to make a difference, we can teach a painting class at a local nursing home, tutor students at school in math, or bake cookies for a bake sale to donate money raised to a local cause.
    - What skills and/or talents did the students in the video need to have to be successful?
  - Donating **treasure** means making financial contributions or donating goods to someone in need. You can donate treasure by giving food, clothing, or household items to those in need, supporting the work a nonprofit is doing by giving \$20 to help their cause, etc.

Slide 3 – Discussion questions

- Divide students into small groups, and allow about two minutes for them to discuss:
  - Which experiences in your life drive you to want to help others? (1 minute)
  - How can you use your time, talents and/or treasures to help others? (1 minute)
- Call on one person from each group to share one example their group came up with.
- Explain that philanthropy involves giving time, talents and/or treasures to make an impact on others.

Slide 4 - Quote

- Talk through quote on screen – “It is better to have a meaningful life and make a difference than to merely have a long life.” – Bryant H. McGill

Slide 5 –

- Ask students to write these definitions on their worksheet:
  - Philanthropy - The process of giving back. The act of donating money, goods, services, time or effort to support a beneficial cause and create a lasting impact.
  - Charitable Foundation - an organization that is created and supported with money that people give in order to do something that helps society.





- Explain that nonprofits (which will come up in the next lesson) and charitable foundations have the purpose of helping people for the greater good, and therefore are not taxed, since they are doing a service for communities.
- Call on 1-2 students to share their response to:
  - *What does it look like when people and organizations work to meet people's needs for the common good?*
  - *What does it look like when this isn't done in communities?*

**[TEACHER TIP]** Use this activity to explore differences that individuals and small groups can make.

*Slide 6 – Charitable Foundations*

- Talk through each of the three charitable foundations on the screen

**Optional Activity: Play the ABCs of Philanthropy game**

Students form teams and brainstorm actions of philanthropy based on a letter of the alphabet you present to them. Teams will see who can get to the finish line first by advancing spaces when they are the first group to come up with an action. Directions are included in the ABCs of Philanthropy Game resource.

**Reflection for Action** (Apply today's learning to specific actions - 5 minutes)

*Slide 7 – Reflection Questions*

- Read slide and questions listed. Allow 1-2 minutes for pair-share on how they can use their time, talents and/or treasure to impact a cause important to them.
- What kind of charitable foundation or nonprofit could collaborate with them on their idea to use their 3Ts. Have students write their answers on the front of their worksheet under 'Reflection' section.

