

RAISING FUNDS

In this lesson students will read about a group of kids who raised funds to address a problem near their school. Your students will then identify causes in *their* school or community that might benefit from a fundraiser, and pitch fundraising ideas to the class.

Grade Levels 3–6

Note: Lessons are designed to support multiple grade levels. Modification suggestions and extensions are for alternative pacing and to engage students at various levels.

Standards

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3 . Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9 Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

SOCIAL AWARENESS The ability to understand the perspectives of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and contexts

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING The ability to make caring and constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions across diverse situations

Social Studies Standards (NCSS)

Theme 5: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Theme 7: Production, Distribution, and Consumption

What You'll Need

“Squash It!” article from TIME for Kids, writing materials, “Planning a Fundraiser” worksheet

Essential Question(s)

- What is fundraising? Why do people donate money and raise funds?
- What makes an effective fundraiser?



Before teaching this lesson, share your perspectives in this short survey.

Learning Objectives

- I can list different types of fundraisers and evaluate the pros and cons of each.
- I can identify problems and issues that could be addressed by a fundraiser.
- I can collaborate with a group to come up with a fundraising campaign idea.

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduction

Write the word *funds* on the board. Ask a volunteer to share the meaning of the word. Then ask students to think of different fundraisers they've heard of or been part of, such as a lemonade stand, a bake sale, or a walk-a-thon. Make a list on the board as students share. Tell them they'll be reading about a group of kids who started a fundraiser to address a problem at their school.

Discussion

Have students read "[Squash It!](#)" independently. As they read, have them take note of the problems the kids face, their successes, and what they learned from the experience. Then bring the class back together for a discussion.

Discussion Questions

1. What problem was Joy trying to solve with her group Squash? Was she successful?
2. What were some problems the students faced during their fundraiser? How did they try to solve these problems? Did their solutions work?
3. How did Joy's efforts evolve over time? What was the reason for the change?
4. What did Joy learn from her fundraising efforts?
5. If this was your fundraiser, is there anything you would have done differently? Explain.

After discussing the text, have students think about things your school needs, that students could raise funds for. You can choose to extend this to needs in the community, if you want to have a larger reach. Then have the class return to the list of fundraisers created in the beginning of the lesson. Have students consider some pros and cons of each. For example, a bake sale might be the most popular, but might require the most time and resources. Go through each fundraising idea and have students share pros and cons.

Small Group Activity

Have the class vote on a cause, in their school or community, that they'd like to raise funds for. Point out Joy's quote "I originally wanted this to be an individual project. But when I decided to involve other students, I was amazed at how our progress increased." Tell students they'll be working with a group to design a fundraiser idea for the cause the class voted on. Group students and give each group a copy of the "[Planning a Fundraiser](#)" worksheet for their notes. Each group should be raising funds for the same cause, but can choose the fundraiser they'd like to organize. Have them consider the pros and cons discussed for each fundraiser type. Allow students to research the costs of supplies and possible donors in their community.

Closing

Have each group pitch its idea to the class. After each pitch, allow classmates to provide feedback on the group's idea or to ask questions about it. After each group has had an opportunity to share, have the class vote on the best fundraising idea. If time and resources permit, have the class put their idea into action. First, work together to revise and finalize the plan, based on peer feedback. If necessary, share the proposal with the school administration before beginning. Then have the class identify action items and identify which groups will take on what tasks.

Exit Ticket (Survey)

Have students complete the ["Raising Funds Survey"](#) to capture the impact this lesson has had on them.

Optional Extension Opportunities

Read or review the following Kid of the Month articles, and use the prompt to facilitate discussion and add to earlier conversations.

- **"Lunch Money"** In this article, DeJuan Strickland uses a GoFundMe page to broaden his reach. Ask students if that's something they think could work for their fundraiser. If so, have them research the organization to learn how it works.
- **"Being a Buddy"** In this article, Sammie Vance rallies her community to collect bottle caps to reduce the cost of buddy benches. Are there items that can be collected or donated that would support students' fundraiser or reduce costs?

Home-to-School Connections

- **Talk about it.** Has your child noticed any fundraisers happening nearby? Think about the Salvation Army collections around the holidays, or collection jars at local stores. Has your family ever donated to one? Why or why not?
- **Act on it.** Encourage kids to keep an eye out for fundraisers. These may show up in person, in commercials, or as ads online. Talk about these fundraisers when kids notice them (but remind them not to click any links without permission). Ask your child what the money is being raised for. They can look into the cause or the organization if they're curious. If time and resources permit, have students start a collection for one of the fundraisers they've seen. This could mean collecting change they find, asking for donations in lieu of presents for their birthday, or asking friends and family to considering donating.