

LET'S TALK FUNDRAISING

In this lesson, students will have a read-a-thon to raise funds for supplies or equipment that would benefit the class or the school.

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
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.4

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

SELF-MANAGEMENT
RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Social Studies Standards (NCSS)

Production, Distribution, and Governance
Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Essential Question(s)

- How do types of fundraisers differ from one another?
- How can we get others to donate to our cause?

Learning Objectives

- I can identify needs in my classroom or my school.
- I can explain the benefits of a *-thon*-based fundraiser.
- I can find donors to support a cause.

What You'll Need

“How Fundraisers Work” article from TIME for Kids; “Read-a-thon Donations” worksheet

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduce It

Group students and ask them to discuss what supplies or equipment might improve their learning experience. For example, a telescope could support students in their astronomy unit, or new headphones could keep students from distracting others while using a computer. Encourage students to dream big. Make a list on the board while groups share their ideas. Then narrow the list down to a few favorite ideas. Have students research the approximate cost of the supplies or equipment.

- Note: If your school doesn't need anything, consider donating to another school or teacher. Donors Choose is a great place to find classrooms in need.

Read About It

Read the article “[How Fundraisers Work](#)” (TIME for Kids, September 12, 2018). While they read, have students define the following:

- fundraiser
- donor
- overhead

Discuss It

Talk about the types of fundraisers that are mentioned in the article. Which ones require the least overhead? Explain that the class will be doing a read-a-thon to raise funds for a cause. Discuss the following:

- What are some benefits of this kind of fundraiser? What are some challenges?
- Why might someone want to donate? What's the benefit for donors?
- How can students encourage people to donate?

Act on It

Work as a class to identify the one cause from the beginning of the lesson for which students want to raise money. Come up with a goal amount and a time frame. Then provide students with the “[Read-a-thon Donations](#)” worksheet.

- Have them fill in the timeline for their reading. Explain the difference between a flat donation and a per-page donation.
- Give students time to add potential donors.
- Designate an amount of time for students to get donors.

Then hold your read-a-thon! Provide students with a reading log to keep track of their progress. You can set up an account at read-a-thon.com to track readers and donations.