



Day in the Life: Police Officer
Grade: 5-8

Description:

Students learn about the highly trained people who ensure our safety and keep the peace. By participating in this Passports exploration, students will understand the diverse set of skills police officers need to effectively do their jobs. Engaging in this Passports may also help students dispel some common myths or stereotypes surrounding the career of law enforcement.

Preparation for the Excursion

To ensure the most meaningful learning experience for your students, it is recommended that students engage in activities prior to the excursion. The video resources provide students with a context for the virtual excursion. The additional resources and activities offer opportunities for curricular connections and integration within your larger unit of study. The excursion is intended to complement a comprehensive unit.

Video Link:

Use the following link to view the *Day in the Life of a Police Officer* video:

http://easylink.playstream.com/21_CenturyLearning/occupations/Policeman_K3_256k.rm

Challenge Questions:

To begin the Passports and assess students' prior knowledge ask students to respond to these questions:

- What do you know about police officers?
- Have you ever interacted with a police officer for any reason?
- What are some of the jobs performed by a police officer?

After watching the video ask students to respond to these questions:

- What did you learn that surprised you about police officers?
- What are the skills necessary to be a police officer?
- How do you plan to serve your community?

Responses/Prompts:

The questions are intended to spark thinking about police officers in students' community.

Lessons at a glance:

Students will discuss what kinds of jobs, tools, and vehicles officers use every day to protect and serve the people of their cities. Students will research and write about the importance of their jobs to the community and how students can make their jobs easier.

Lesson Outcomes:

The students will:

- Reflect on what a police officer means to them.
- Understand the importance of rules and laws and be able to differentiate the two.

Activity:

Activity #1

Students will see the similarities between rules and laws and understand that teachers and police officers must enforce rules and law to maintain order.



Divide the class into two teams. Assign one group to investigate and build the case for rules in school. Assign the other group to investigate and build the case for no rules in school. Give groups time to research and prepare. Groups may want to develop a PowerPoint slideshow to support their presentation. Then, hold a class debate, giving each group ample time to present their arguments and rebut their opponents' arguments. Based on the evidence and rationale provided, decide on the most convincing argument.

Activity #2: Write a new law

After understanding the importance of laws, break students into groups and have them write a new law. Suggest students follow this process:

1. Brainstorm some ideas for new laws.
2. Debate and vote to narrow the list down to one idea.
3. Write your new law. Be as precise as you can to make the law understandable to anyone who reads it.
4. Decide upon and write a consequence for those who break the law.

Activity #3: Service Learning Project

Engage students in thinking about their local community as it relates to order and justice. Challenge students to think about problems or issues within the community that they could address. Students could scan local newspapers for current events or contact the local police department for service-learning project ideas. For instance, students could organize an after school event such as a park clean up to offer children a meaningful experience after school. Or, perhaps students could reflect on the following of rules within their school community. What policies or consequences should be implemented to ensure students appreciate the school rules?