

Lesson Plan

Teamwork Makes the Pirate Dream Work

Lesson Description

In this lively lesson for 5-7 year olds, students will discover the importance of teamwork by learning catchy pirate-themed songs about the different jobs pirates do to keep their ship sailing smoothly. Through interactive music and role-play, students will explore how each crew member's role contributes to the team's success. Brief scenarios will highlight specific tasks, prompting discussions on who is best suited for each job, reinforcing the idea that when everyone works together, the whole team thrives. This engaging introduction to teamwork and specialization will spark curiosity about collaboration and its role in driving progress.

National Voluntary Economic Standard

Standard 6: Specialization

Grade Levels

Grades K-2

Time

30-40 minutes

Materials

- [“We All Have a Job to Do” slide deck](#)
- Projector and projector screen

Procedures

1. Start by saying to the students, "Ahoy, mateys! Today, we're going to join Captain Blackbeard and his crew as they set sail for treasure! But there's a problem—the ship won't move unless everyone works together! Each pirate has a special job, and we need to figure out how teamwork makes the dream work. Are you ready to become part of the pirate crew and help us keep the ship sailing smoothly?"
2. Display the [“We All Have a Job to Do” presentation](#) on the projector board. Advance to the second slide and read this activity's title out loud, “We All Have a Job to Do.”
3. Go to each of the remaining slides and lead the students in singing each song and demonstrating the motions to go with each one. Every song is sung to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus Go ‘Round and ‘Round.” (You can [check out this video](#) if you need to hear the tune.)

The Captain

"My pirate job is
lead the crew,
lead the crew,
lead the crew.

My pirate job is
lead the crew.

That's what I do."

(The motion to go with this song is placing one hand on a hip and pointing ahead with the other hand. Students will do this each time they say, "lead the crew.")

The Lookout

"My pirate job is
look around,
look around,
look around.

My pirate job is
look around.

That's what I do."

(The motion to go with this song is placing one hand above their eyes like they're looking ahead and pointing ahead with the other hand. Students will do this each time they say, "look around.")

The Cook

"My pirate job is
make the food,
make the food,
make the food.

My pirate job is
make the food.

That's what I do."

(The motion to go with this song is to make a motion like they're holding a pot with one hand and stirring the pot with the other. Students will do this each time they say, "make the food.")

The Carpenter

"My pirate job is
fix the ship,
fix the ship,
fix the ship.

My pirate job is
fix the ship.

That's what I do."

(The motion to make with this song is to make a motion like they're holding a nail between their point finger and thumb on one hand and hammering the nail with the other. Students will do this each time they say, "fix the ship.")

The Map Reader

"My pirate job is
read the map,
read the map,
read the map.

My pirate job is
read the map.

That's what I do."

(The motion to make with this song is to make a motion like they're holding a map between their hands and looking all around it with their eyes. Students will do this each time they say, "read the map.")

The Helmsman

"My pirate job is
steer the ship,
steer the ship,
steer the ship.

My pirate job is
steer the ship.

That's what I do."

(The motion to make with this song is to make a motion like they're turning a steering wheel one way then the other. Students will do this each time they say, "steer the ship.")

The Deckhand

"My pirate job is
swab the deck,
swab the deck,
swab the deck.

My pirate job is
swab the deck.

That's what I do."

(The motion to make with this song is to make a motion like they're moving a mop back and forth. Students will do this each time they say, "swab the deck.")

Assessment

Read each scenario aloud. Have students spend a few seconds deciding which member of the crew is needed to keep the ship sailing smoothly:

- **Scenario 1: The Storm Ahead**

The crew has just returned from a treasure hunt, but they're excited to go on another adventure. Who will gather everyone together to plan the next journey and set the course?

Answer: The Captain leads the crew.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the captain song.

- **Scenario 2: A Bird in the Sky**

There is an island up ahead. This person quickly calls out to the crew. Who is making sure everyone knows what's ahead?

Answer: The Lookout looks around.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the lookout song.

- **Scenario 3: Dinner Time**

The crew is getting hungry after a long day at sea. Who is busy cooking up a delicious meal for everyone?

Answer: The Cook makes the food.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the cook song.

- **Scenario 4: A Loose Board**

The crew hears a loud creaking noise coming from the ship. Who do they call to fix the loose board?

Answer: The Carpenter fixes the ship.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the carpenter song.

- **Scenario 5: A Torn Sail**

During a strong wind, the sails start to rip. Who is needed to sew the sails and keep the ship moving fast?

Answer: The Sailmaker sews the sails.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the sailmaker song.

- **Scenario 6: Finding Treasure**

The crew has a treasure map, but they aren't sure which direction to go. Who is needed to read the map and find the way?

Answer: The Map Reader reads the map.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the map reader song.

- **Scenario 7: Steering the Ship**

The ship is heading toward a rocky area. Who is needed to steer the ship away from danger?

Answer: The Helmsman steers the ship.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the helmsman song.

- **Scenario 8: Cleaning Up**

After a busy day, the deck is messy with spills and crumbs. Who is responsible for swabbing the deck to keep it clean?

Answer: The Deckhand swabs the deck.

When the students get the right answer, lead them in singing the deckhand song.

Note: Ahoy! The teacher should feel free to adjust which jobs are shared in this lesson.

Closing

Tell students, "To wrap up our pirate adventure, let's remember how important it is for everyone to work together as a team. Just like the pirates on our ship, each of you has a special role to play. When we all do our jobs, we help each other and make sure the ship sails smoothly. Keep thinking about how you can be a great team player in everything you do—whether in school, at home, or anywhere else!"