

What is a Charity?

Under 11 years

Schools

This lesson plan and activities link to the curriculum in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Please download your curriculum chart.

Activities to help your pupils understand what a charity is and what charities do.

- 1). Set them a challenge to devise their very own fundraising event to raise money for a charity or good cause of their choice.
- 2). Encourage them to think of great ways to promote their event to help make it a success.

Class discussion:

- Ask the class what they think a charity is and what they do. Record their ideas on the whiteboard and discuss their thoughts.
- To confirm the pupils' ideas or provide more clarification share this definition with the class:
A charity is an organisation set up to provide help and raise money for those in need.
Charities usually raise money through donations and have volunteers that help.
- Ask them to name a few examples of charities they have heard of before.
- Ask the group how they think charities raise money and if they have been part of any fundraising events before.
- Discuss how charities like Histio UK rely on money raised through fundraising to continue doing their work and helping people.
You can use the information on the website to help with this.

Group activity:

- Split the class into small groups and ask them to discuss ideas for a new fundraising event they could host at school to raise funds for a charity or good cause of their choice.
- Ask the groups to think about:
 - How to make their event fun so that people will want to take part.
 - How their event will raise money - will people be sponsored or pay to attend take part?
 - Where in school will they hold their event
- the hall, play ground or field etc.?
- Once the groups have had a chance to discuss, ask a few groups to share their ideas with the rest of the class and take a vote on which event the class think would be the most successful/best to run.

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Individual task:

- Once an event has been chosen ask pupils to think about how they would promote their fundraising event to encourage people to take part.
- They could create a poster, a news item for the local paper, a radio advert, a leaflet or another idea of their choice.
- Ask the pupils to create the content for their promotional activity and think about the design and layout if they are creating a poster or leaflet.
- Ask them to also give some reasons why they have chosen this method to promote their event.
- Display the pupils' work in the classroom and/or ask them to present it to their classmates in small groups highlighting the key points of their promotional material.

Get involved:

Use your pupils' great ideas to organise a fundraising event to help raise funds for Histio UK. Work with them to plan their event and help them understand what they need to think about during the planning process. Find lots of ideas and support at www.histiouk.org.

About Histio UK

Histio UK is the UK's leading histiocytosis charity for Children, young people, adults and their families. We fund research and provide information support. Find out more at www.histiouk.org.