

Patriotism

Syllables
pa•tri•ot•ism

Pronunciation
pey-tree-uh-tiz-uhm

Definition

Devotion to one's country.

(Seth joined the Scouts to learn more about **patriotism**.)

Simply put: Is this a great place, or what?

Related Terms

Nationalism: Being so strongly devoted to a particular nation and its culture that one puts them ahead of all others.

Fundamental Question:

Who or what is a patriotic person?

Students will investigate the idea that while it is important to love their own country, it is also important to understand that every person counts, regardless of where (s)he comes from or lives.

Objectives

Each student will assist in the planning, design, and development of a Patriotism Learning Center.

Before you begin

- Gather a large variety of miscellaneous materials (such as file folders, tongue depressors, fabric remnants, craft supplies, index cards, library books, and laminating paper, among others) for use in the construction of a learning center.
- Print out a copy of *Planning for Project Patriotism* for each student.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Patriotism (Discussion Idea)

Discuss: What does it mean to be free? What are the responsibilities that go along with freedom?

Taking It to the Next Level

Invite a war veteran, city council member, state representative, voter advocate, or other patriotic individual(s) to visit your class. Have the students prepare questions to help find out what the person learned from his or her experiences, why and how (s)he served, and more.

Patriotism

Procedure

1. Begin by completing the activity in *Taking It to the Next Level*. Ask the visitor(s): “What are several of the very most important things you would want today’s children to know about patriotism?” Be sure to record all of the answers.
2. When the guest has left, explain to the children that your class is going to develop a portable learning center that others may borrow to learn about patriotism.
3. Distribute the *Planning for Project Patriotism* sheets and assist your students in completing them.
4. As a class, meet to discuss the ideas considered and select from eight to ten to try. The activities should be clearly on topic (patriotism), worthwhile educationally, convertible from a standing center activity to a component in a portable center, developmentally appropriate for the audience, and so on.
5. Break the class into small groups. Assign the development of one or two of the previously selected activities to each group. Meet with each group frequently to offer guidance and encouragement.
6. **Follow Up:** Combine the individual activities into one, consolidated learning center. Invite another class or the parents of your students to your classroom to try it out. (Don’t forget to take photos!) Supply suggestion/comment forms for the visitors to fill out and discuss the comments with your students. Tweak any problems and advertise in your school that the portable center is available for borrowing.

Name _____

Reminder: Patriotism means devotion to one's country.

Planning for Project Patriotism

Goals:

The patriotic topic I want to teach is: (example: patriotic holidays, flag, voting)

I hope this activity will teach someone that _____

The perfect person to do this activity is someone who (example: age, grade, background)

I will know the activity was a success if _____

This activity will be called _____ because

I will need these supplies to create the activity: _____

These are the directions for someone who wants to try my activity: _____

Sketch an idea of what the activity might look like in a learning center on the back of this page.

I can make the activity portable (mobile) by: _____

Today's Thought: *Ask not what your country can do for you...Ask what you can do for your country.* – **John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States**