



Teacher Resource

# Young Volunteers

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. How are the kids in the BTN story helping others in their community?
2. Why did the community start the event?
3. What do the kids learn by volunteering?
4. Why do the kids in the BTN story think it's important for kids their age to be volunteering?
5. How did this story make you feel?

## Activity: What did you See, Feel and Learn?

As a class ask students to discuss their thoughts and feelings about the BTN Young Volunteers story. Use the following questions to guide discussion:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- How do you FEEL about what you saw in the story? Make a list of words that describe how you felt after watching this story.
- What did you LEARN from the BTN story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have? Think of three (open-ended) questions you would like to ask about the story.



## Activity – Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Young Volunteers story as a class, using the following questions to guide the discussion. Record the main points on a mind map with 'VOLUNTEERING' at the centre.

- What is a volunteer?
- What are some examples of volunteering?
- Why do people volunteer?
- What are the benefits of volunteering? (To themselves and the community).

### EPISODE 13

21st May 2024

### KEY LEARNING

Students will explore the benefits of volunteering and think of ways that kids can volunteer.

### CURRICULUM

#### HASS – Year 4

Locate and collect information and data from different sources, including observations.

#### HASS – Year 5

How people with shared beliefs and values work together to achieve a civic goal.

#### HASS – Year 6

The obligations citizens may consider they have beyond their own national borders as active and informed global citizens.

#### Health & PE – Years 5/6

Investigate community resources and ways to seek help about health, safety and wellbeing.

#### Health & PE – Years 7/8

Practise and apply strategies to seek help for themselves or others.

## Activity – Kids Volunteering

In this activity students will understand the concept of volunteering, and then explore various ways they can get involved in volunteering activities. Begin by asking students to respond to the following questions:

- Do you want to volunteer? Give reasons.
- Have you ever done any volunteer work? If so, explain in more detail. Maybe you've helped on 'Clean Up Australia Day' or volunteered to be on the student representative council at your school.
- If you have volunteered, how did it feel? Is this an experience you'd like to have again?

Brainstorm ways that you or your class as a whole can get involved in volunteering. Make a list of organisations that offer opportunities for primary school aged children to volunteer. Before you approach a volunteer organisation, ask yourself:

- What sorts of things do they do?
- Is it something you're passionate about?
- Will they need your help?
- Is there a reason they might not be able to use a student volunteer?

Lots of young people volunteer, but not every organisation can take on a younger person. Brainstorm some different ways that kids can volunteer. For example:

- You could volunteer with your class or your family and friends.
- If you love animals, you could help care for dogs, cats, bunnies and other animals at your local animal shelter.
- If you like being with people you could help at a local nursing home.
- If you like nature you could count wildlife or plants to help the planet.

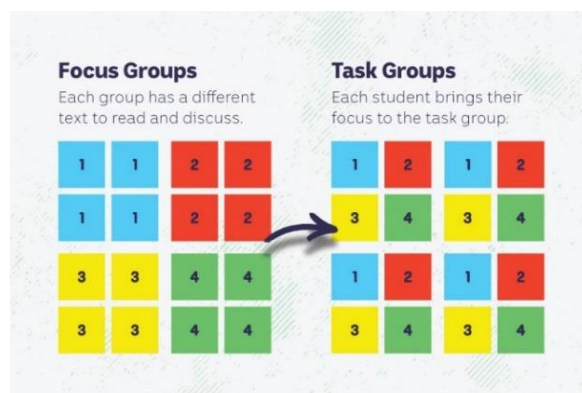
## Activity – Jigsaw learning

In this activity students will work cooperatively to understand the importance of volunteering in the community. Each group will become experts and then share what they have learnt with other students. As a class brainstorm a list of organisations where people volunteer. It could be in a range of areas including health, welfare, environment and conservation, safety services, service clubs, heritage, sport, the arts, and culture!

### 1. Form Groups

Divide the class into 4 x Focus Groups. Each Focus Group will be assigned a different organisation where people volunteer. Below are some examples of organisations where people volunteer:

- Foodbank volunteers ([BTN story](#))
- SES Volunteers ([BTN story](#))
- St John Cadets ([BTN story](#))



Each group will need to decide how they will collect and communicate the information they find during their research.

## 2. Research

Students can search for news articles and other publications to help with their research. Each Focus Group will respond to one or more of the following questions to become experts:

- What is the purpose of the organisation?
- Who can volunteer? Can young people volunteer?
- What jobs do volunteers do?
- What people in the community benefit from this organisation?
- Think of an interesting way to teach other students about this organisation.

## 3. Share

Mix the Focus Groups to form Task Groups (Task Groups include one student from each of the Focus Groups) to share the information they have collected. Students will share the information they have collected and learn from one another.

## 4. Reflect

Students will reflect on the activity by responding to one or more of the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about this investigation?
- What did you find surprising?

## Activity – Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

### Human Interest Story

Highlight a person or group in your community that volunteers. Write a human interest story about them and the work they do and publish it in your school newsletter.

### Interview

Identify an outstanding individual in your community who volunteers. Conduct an interview to learn about their experiences. Nominate them for a community award!

### Design a Poster

Find out ways that people volunteer in your school community. Design and create a poster which celebrates volunteers in your school community.

### Persuasive Text

Write a persuasive text urging kids in your community to volunteer. Highlight the benefits of volunteering and suggest ways kids can volunteer.

## Useful Websites

- [National Volunteer Week](#) – Volunteering Australia
- [Fire Season Warning](#) – BTN
- [St John Cadets](#) – BTN
- [Foodbank Volunteers](#) – BTN
- [Cooking with Kindness](#) – BTN
- [Young Cemetery Volunteer](#) – BTN
- [Heywire: Volunteers needed! Motivate your audience](#) – ABC Education