

Summer Activities (Elementary)

Overview:

Students will imagine they're being sent to a desert island and will have to take six things with them. They will consider how it would feel to be on a desert island and learn about messages in a bottle. They will write messages in a bottle. On receiving a message, they will reply. They will learn how to give and accept a compliment and learn how to work together in a group through creating a box of "treasure talents."

Objectives:

- Children will learn how it feels to do or start something new and learn ways to cope with feelings that arise.
- They will learn to manage their feelings.
- They will learn how to give and accept compliments.
- They will learn to work together in a group.

Materials:

- Paper, pens, etc.
- A plastic bottle for each child
- Cardboard boxes and junk that can be used to make things
- Stones, leaves, and other natural things that might be found on a desert island

Procedure:

1. Ask the children to shut their eyes and imagine a desert island. Share ideas to build up a picture of the island.
2. Tell the students to think of one thing they would take with them to the island. Begin with the stem "If I went to a desert island, I would take..." Make sure every child contributes.
3. Ask the children to imagine they are being sent to a desert island. They can take six things with them. What would they take?
4. Share those ideas.
5. Ask how they would feel if they were on a desert island.

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6. Explain that long ago, before mobile phones, if people got stranded on a desert island they would write a message in a bottle. They would then hope it would be found and passed on to someone who could help them.
7. Give each child a plastic bottle, some paper and pens, and ask them to write a message to put in the bottle.
8. Ask the children to share their messages. If they explain that their messages are secret, respect this but remind them that someone will find their bottle so they might want to make a new message.
9. At the end of the session, distribute the bottles to others in the group and ask them to reply to the message.
10. Place the answers in the bottle ready for the children to find.
11. Re-distribute the bottles to the original children and provide time to read the messages.
12. Explain that the whole class is stuck on a desert island. Make a word picture of how they feel.
13. Explain that they will have to find a way off the island. Use the materials and boxes to develop ideas as a group.
14. Ask them to share one or more ideas about surviving on the island. These should involve working together.
15. Build up a box of treasure talents. The children should work in pairs and share strengths or talents that they showed during the activities. Have them cut out “coins” from the paper and write their talents or strengths on each coin. You can also share what talents and strengths you observed during the activities.
16. Put all the coins in a treasure chest (decorated cardboard box). Remind the children that all the talents in the box make every member of the group valuable.

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McREL standards

Civics

Standard 11. Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society.

Level II. Benchmark 4. Knows some of the benefits of diversity (e.g., it fosters a variety of viewpoints, new ideas, and fresh ways of looking at and solving problems; it provides people with choices in art, music, literature, and sports; it helps people appreciate cultural traditions and practices other than their own).

<http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>