

Taking Action Together

Pre-K through Grade 5, written to Grade 2 standards

Each of us, including the youngest members of our community, can make a difference. In this lesson, student changemakers will reflect on their community's needs and create a service-learning action plan to make a positive change. Have your students envision and build a world that welcomes and cares for us all!

Objective

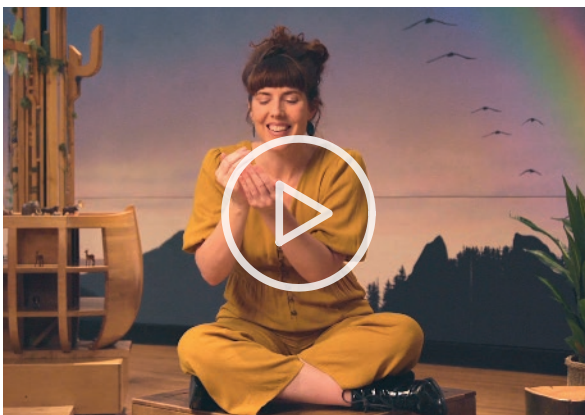
Students will strengthen critical-thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills by identifying and applying their strengths to help out in their home, classroom, and community.

Materials

- “Action Plan” worksheet
- “Taking Action Together” worksheet

Class Activity

1. Watch and participate in a fun Mindful Moment video activity.



Mindful Moment: Rainbow

6:11 min.

At the end of our story, we see a rainbow that symbolizes hope and possibility. Join Noah's Ark educator Julia for a moment of mindful reflection on how to care for yourself, your loved ones, and the world around you.

2. As we learned in the video, each of us can take actions, big and small, to make a difference. In the Jewish tradition, there is a Hebrew word for this—*tzedakah*—which means “justice” or “good deeds.” Have a conversation with students about the following questions:
 - a. What do you think of when you hear the words “justice” and “good deeds?”

- b. What are some ways you help or take care of others in your family, classroom, or community?
- c. Talk about a time when someone helped or took care of you.
How did it make you feel? Answer this question in **Lesson 2: Community Council**.

3. Reflect on your community's needs together. At the Skirball, we are invested in actions that care for the environment, provide services for our unhoused neighbors, welcome immigrants and refugees, support students and educators, and strengthen community ties.

Be inspired by past student projects and use the **Build a Better World interactive map** to learn about a few of our favorite service organizations in Los Angeles County.

4. Create a list of ways students might be interested in making an impact, such as writing letters to elected officials, cleaning up the beach or your street, or sending notes of gratitude (Try **Lesson 7: Cards of Kindness**).

Student Instructions

Get ready to make a difference! Use the "Action Plan" worksheet to record your community's needs. Then, brainstorm how you can meet those needs with your skills and interests.

Share Out

- Invite students to share one piece of their action plans with a partner or the whole class.
- Select one service project goal as a class and write it in the "Taking Action Together" worksheet. Strategize what collective actions you can take to reach your vision.
- Set a deadline and make a promise to take action together!

Curriculum Connections

CCSS.ELA-Literacy: W.2.8

Connect with Us

Our educators are here to help! If you would like to talk with us about how best to facilitate this activity with your students, please email teacherprograms@skirball.org.

Changemaker (your name!): _____

Action Plan

My community needs: _____

Things I am good at: _____

Things I like to do: _____

How can I use my strengths to help my community?

Who could help me? _____

Changemaker (your name!): _____

Taking Action Together

We, the students of _____

(school)

in _____,

(city)

have this goal to make our community and world a better place:

By _____, we will take the following steps together:

(date)

Write, draw, or create a symbol for each step!

1.	2.
3.	