



LEADERS AMONG US

Course Description:

"Leaders Among Us" is a middle school course focused on leadership essentials. Students will explore different leadership styles, recognize their own traits, and learn how to work well in groups. Through service learning projects and discussions, they'll understand values like honesty and teamwork, and how leaders can make a difference in their communities.

Grade Level: 7th and 8th Grade

Unit Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: Introduction to Leadership

Unit 2: Service Learning Projects

Unit 3: Inspiring Leadership

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Being a leader means having qualities like honesty, empathy, and communication skills, and using them to help others and make things better.
- By helping our school and community, we can become better leaders and make a positive difference in the world around us.

Course Essential Questions:

- How can I demonstrate leadership?
- How can I serve our community?

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UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO LEADERSHIP

In this unit, we'll learn about what it takes to be a leader and work well in groups. We'll figure out what kind of leader each of us is and talk about why things like honesty and responsibility are important for leaders. We'll also see how our actions affect our group, and why it's essential to make good choices.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
<i>Enduring Understandings</i>	<i>Essential Questions</i>
• Leaders come in many forms, each bringing something special to a group to make it work better. • Knowing yourself helps you be a better leader and teammate. • Making good choices and taking responsibility for them is important for being a leader.	• What does it mean to be a leader? • What are your personal traits that help you lead?
<i>Students must know:</i>	<i>Students must be able to:</i>
• Definitions of Leadership.	• Identify their own personality and character traits. • Reflect on how their traits contribute to their leadership style and working with others.

Missouri Learning Standards
Student recognizes the impact of individual decisions on the group (MASC 5.3). • Student identifies traits of a good leader and justifies choices (MASC 2.1). • Student identifies leadership styles and evaluates their effectiveness (MASC 2.2). • Student identifies personal leadership style (MASC 2.3). • Student takes responsibility for personal actions and acts ethically (MASC 6.1).

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UNIT 2: SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

In this unit, we'll focus on making a difference in our school and community. We'll identify things that need fixing or improving, like helping out with school events or doing projects to help people in our neighborhood. We'll learn how leaders can show good values like respect and kindness by doing service projects. We'll have plans to help others, know how to work together to make those plans happen, and complete several service learning projects.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions
- Leaders play a key role in promoting values like character, learning, and community through planning and implementing service projects that address the needs of our school and community. - Effective leaders understand the diverse needs of their community, organize plans to address those needs, and work collaboratively to carry out service projects that make a positive impact.	- How do we promote values of character, learning, and community? - How can we help our larger community?
Students must know:	Students must be able to:
- Values - Character - Learning - Community	- Identify needs within their school and community. - Explain how leaders can promote important values. - Develop plans to support their school and community. - Participate in service projects that support the school and community.

Missouri Learning Standards
Student participates in service learning projects (MASC 6.3). - Student uses self-organization strategies (MASC 3.1). - Student plans and implements events (MASC 3.2). - Student explains the role and functioning of a committee (MASC 3.4). - Student understands and uses problem-solving and conflict resolution strategies appropriate for the group (MASC 4.2). - Student demonstrates an understanding of community diversity and the individual rights of others (MASC 6.2). - Student demonstrates an understanding of group dynamics (MASC 4.1). - Student demonstrates the ability to set, work on, and evaluate progress towards goals (MASC 5.1). - Student employs ethical decision making practices (MASC 5.2). - Student recognizes the impact of individual decisions on the group (MASC 5.3).

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UNIT 2: SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

- Students assesses their individual and collective capacities to take action to address local, regional, and global problems, taking into account a range of possible levers of power, strategies, and potential outcomes (C3 Framework D4.7.6-8).

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UNIT 3: INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

In this unit, we'll study what makes a great leader. We'll look at different leaders and figure out what qualities they have that make people want to follow them. We'll also practice presenting our findings to the class, learning how to communicate our ideas clearly and confidently. By the end of this unit, we'll understand more about what it takes to be a leader, how we can inspire others, and how to effectively share our thoughts with others.

Unit Essential Learning Targets	
Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions
- Leaders embody specific character traits inspire and guide others towards positive change. - By studying exemplary leaders and their actions, we gain insights into effective leadership styles and strategies, providing us with valuable lessons to apply in our own lives and endeavors. - Effective communication, both verbal and nonverbal, is essential for engaging with diverse audiences and inspiring leadership.	- What character traits define a leader? - Which leaders inspire us, and what can we learn from them?
Students must know:	Students must be able to:
Character traits of leaders.	- Research leaders who exemplify leadership traits. - Create and Deliver a presentation about inspiring leadership.

Missouri Learning Standards
Student identifies leadership styles and evaluates their effectiveness (MASC 2.2). - Student identifies traits of a good leader and justifies choices (MASC 2.1). - Student identifies personal leadership style (MASC 2.3). - Student recognizes the impact of individual decisions on the group (MASC 5.3). - Student takes responsibility for personal actions and acts ethically (MASC 6.1).
Speaking and listening, presenting, verbal delivery, speak audibly, and to the point, using conventions of language as appropriate to task, purpose and audience when presenting including appropriate volume, clear articulation and accurate pronunciation at an understandable pace (MLS.ELA.8.SL.2.A). - Speaking and Listening, presenting, nonverbal, make consistent eye contact with a range of listeners when speaking using effective gestures to communicate a clear viewpoint and engage listeners (MLS.ELA.8.SL.2.B). - Speaking and listening, presenting, multimedia, Plan and deliver appropriate presentations based on the task, audience and purpose integrating multimedia into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest (MLS.ELA.8.SL.2.C).

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UNIT 3: INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

- Student communicates effectively in small and large groups (MASC 1.1).
- Student writes effectively (MASC 1.2).
- Student listens effectively (MASC 1.3).
- Student communicates effectively in print, verbal, and electronic form (MASC 1.4).