

Unit 3 Entry Level Task: *The Lion King*

How does power influence society?

Background: In 6th grade, students previously analyzed the impact of borders in Subcontinental Asia and examined what makes a person, group(s) of people, a culture or a nation powerful. In Units 1 and 2 of 7th grade, students analyzed how European nations exerted their power over the Americas through slavery and colonization. Now, students will further explore how individuals in power shape and influence a society in both positive and negative ways.



Task: In this task, students will explore the essential question “how does power influence society?” Students will examine clips from *The Lion King* to compare and contrast how two different rulers use their power and how that use of power affects society. Then, students will analyze how two real leaders from history used power and how that use of power influenced their societies in a short essay.

Purpose: The purpose of this entry level task is to build a foundational understanding of how power influences and shapes the world around us.

Getting Started:

View a scene of *The Lion King* to analyze how Mufasa’s reign affected Pride Rock. How was the environment affected? How about the citizens? Use [this slidedeck](#) to show the clips.

Then, watch a clip from the film demonstrating Scar’s reign. How is the environment affected? How about the citizens? In your notebooks, create a Venn diagram or chart that compares the two clips.

What is Mufasa's philosophy of leadership?

How does his leadership style impact the rest of the animals?

What does he believe as a leader?

Making Meaning:

After students have viewed the clip and taken notes, have them get into pairs and share their observations. The purpose of this pairing is to challenge one another to gather information that directly relates to the purpose of the viewing (i.e., how does viewing the clip from different perspectives change your interpretation of the clip.) As the pairs discuss their observations, they should continue adding to the Venn diagram or chart in their notebooks.

Now ask two pairs to come together to form a group of 4. Have each pair share their ideas with one another. They will then take their ideas and together craft a single statement that addresses what they were asked to look for. **How does power influence society?** They will write their statement in their notebooks to share with other groups later.

Find another group of 4 and share your statements. What is similar? What is different?

Opportunity to Assess Journal Writing

In their Social Studies journals, have students write down their thoughts about the following questions. These prompts can be assessed.

- How do you see elements of power in the clips?
- Based on these clips, how did differing views of power impact society in different ways?

Investigation:

Students will read two articles about a leader's use of power. They will annotate these articles and take notes in their Social Studies notebooks about what they observe.

[Why is Russia Invading Ukraine?](#)

[George Washington Refuses Third Term in Office](#)

Students can read together in pairs or on their own, but they must annotate the articles and write in their Social Studies notebook on the following question: How does each man use his power?

Then, students should write on the following question: What is the influence on society of each leader's decision?

Create/Produce:

Students will produce a short essay that addresses the question:

- How did each leader's use of power impact the society in which they lived? Why do you think they used their power in the way that they did?

Students' essays should have an introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion. They should support their writing with evidence from the articles they read.

Communicate/Present:

Students will share their essays in small groups of three. They will share their ideas and why they think society was impacted in the ways they believe. They will share evidence from the articles and the clips from [The Lion King](#).

Reflect

- Explain how power is important in regards to how it affects society.
- After viewing *The Lion King* and reading the articles, has your perspective on power changed? How? If not, why?