

Bring digital literacy education into your classroom.



Lesson plan: Celebrate Pink Shirt Day

Grades: 6 - 9

Duration: 45 minutes

Overview

Recognized annually on the last Wednesday of every February, Pink Shirt Day aims to raise awareness of bullying. What started as a local movement to show solidarity against bullying is now a global phenomenon that is focused on raising awareness of bullying, as well as raising funds to support programs that encourage healthy self-esteem in youth. In this lesson, students will learn the origin of Pink Shirt Day and will work together to identify the common personal attributes of those who choose to stand against bullying.

Learning outcomes

Students will:

- Learn the origin of Pink Shirt Day
- Learn some of the key characteristics of a person who stands up against bullies
- Understand the impact of small acts of kindness

Preparation and materials

- Whiteboard and markers
- Computer and projection screen with internet access and speakers

Procedure

As a class, watch Travis Price, one of the founders of Pink Shirt Day, tell the story in his own words by showing the [Travis Price – Creating Pink Shirt Day video](#).

The story of Pink Shirt Day

One day, a student wore a pink shirt on his first day at a new school. It wasn't long before a group of students began to bully the student, calling him names and making fun of him for wearing pink. Travis and David, two older students, learned of what happened and wanted to do something to demonstrate that students in the school did not condone bullying. So, Travis and David decided to try something different that would show their support for the student. That night, Travis and David bought 75 pink shirts and then went on Facebook to tell others about their plan. The boys posted and messaged other students, encouraging them to wear pink the next day to show support for not only the student, but everyone else who had experienced bullying. The next day, nearly everyone in the school showed up wearing pink. The new student was so happy to see so many people standing up for him and felt welcomed and supported at the school.

Next, guide the students through the questions below, capturing feedback on the whiteboard.

1. What drove Travis and David into action?

Sample answers:

- New student bullied for wearing a pink shirt
- As seniors, Travis and David wanted to make sure the new student didn't feel like a target

2. How did Travis and David spread their idea for students to show support for the new students?

Sample answers:

- Social media
- Word of mouth

3. Why did Travis and David think that involving other students was key to their plan?

Sample answers:

- Travis and David wanted to show that they could make a difference in numbers

4. What risks did Travis and David take in moving forward with their plan?

Sample answers:

- Expulsion or suspension
- Ostracization by other students
- Potential for fights

5. What was the result of Travis and David's plan?

Sample answers:

- A large portion of the students wore pink in support of both the student and anti-bullying
- A global movement that encourages people to wear pink and raise funds for anti-bullying initiatives

Lastly, provide students with the Pink Shirt Day word search puzzle.

Pink Shirt Day crossword

Cyberbullying affects everyone. You may have experienced it, or maybe you know someone who has. This crossword puzzle introduces the common characteristics of people who stand against bullying, both in person and online.

CROSSWORD DOWN: 1-Pink Shirt Day 2-Thoughtful 4-Happy 5-Nice 7-Courage
 10-Buddy 11-Kind
 ACROSS: 3-Supportive 6-Upstanding 8-Helpful 9-Brave 12-Friendly

Down

- 1. What anti-bullying movement is celebrated each February?
- 2. Showing consideration for the needs of others
- 4. Feeling or showing cheer
- 5. Good-natured
- 7. Doing something that scares you
- 10. A close friend
- 11. Nice to others

Across

- 3. Providing encouragement
- 6. The opposite of bystanding
- 8. Supporting others
- 9. Showing courage
- 12. Kind and pleasant

Pink Shirt Day started as a movement to show support for students being bullied. Today, Pink Shirt Day is celebrated in almost 180 countries around the world, and every year, people show their support through social media posts, donations and, of course, by wearing pink.