

The Tortoise & the Hare | Lesson Plan

How can focusing on our own efforts and strengths lead to success, and why is it important not to compare ourselves to others?

Students will understand the value of unique personal strengths and the importance of focusing on their own consistent efforts and determination. They will learn that success comes from perseverance rather than comparison with others, as illustrated in the fable "The Tortoise and the Hare."

Learning Objectives:

- Identify what a fable is and understand its purpose.
- Recount the fable "The Tortoise and the Hare."
- Explain the concept of determination.
- Understand and interpret the saying "slow and steady wins the race."
- Identify the moral of the story.
- Discuss the importance of determination and perseverance.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Fable:** A short story that teaches a lesson or moral, often with animals as characters.
- **Determination:** The quality of continuing to try to do something, even when it is difficult.
- **"Slow and steady wins the race":** A saying that means being consistent and patient often leads to success.
- **Moral:** A lesson that can be learned from a story or experience.
- **Talent:** A natural ability to do something well.
- **Perseverance:** To keep trying to do something even if it is difficult.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.SL.4
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Academic Topics: Life Lessons, Hard Work, Perseverance

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The Tortoise & the Hare* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The Tortoise & the Hare* (Click [Here](#))

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Begin by explaining what a fable is, that it is a short story that teaches a lesson or moral, and that these stories often have animals as characters.
2. Ask students if they have heard any fables before and share some titles if they have.



3. Introduce and explain the key vocabulary: fable, determination, "slow and steady wins the race," moral, talent, and perseverance.
4. Ask students to think about what they are good at and enjoy doing. Discuss how it feels when someone else is faster or better at something.
5. Explain that comparing ourselves to others can lead to feelings of envy and unhappiness while focusing on our own unique skills and talents can bring gratitude and a sense of contentment. Emphasize that everyone has unique gifts and important roles, and we should appreciate our own and others' abilities without comparison.
6. Let the students know that they will watch a video about an Aesop's fable called "The Tortoise and the Hare" to see if they can spot the vocabulary words and moral of the story.

Watch and Discuss: (15 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: The Tortoise & the Hare* to the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding:
 - What is the Hare doing? Why do you think he feels so confident?
 - What is the Tortoise doing? Why does he keep going?
3. Discuss the characters and their actions:
 - How did the Hare's actions affect the race?
 - Do you think the Hare should have stopped to take a nap?
 - What is the word that we learned to describe the Tortoise?
4. After the video, discuss the moral of the story.
 - What is the moral of the story?
 - What does the saying "slow and steady wins the race" mean?
 - What can we learn about our own actions through this story?

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Explain that the next activity will help them understand the sequence of events in "The Tortoise and the Hare."
2. Hand out the "Otto's Tales: The Tortoise & the Hare Worksheet."
3. Instruct students to look at the pictures on the worksheet and number the scenes in order from first to last.
4. After completing the worksheet, discuss the sequence of events as a class.
5. Ask students to explain why the tortoise won the race and to articulate the importance of determination and perseverance.
6. Evaluate students based on their ability to:
 - Correctly sequence the story of "The Tortoise and the Hare."
 - Explain why the tortoise won.
 - Articulate the importance of determination, perseverance, and the saying "slow and steady wins the race."
7. Close with a quick word of wisdom for the students. Remind them that, like the tortoise, they should focus on their own path and not worry about how others are doing.

Emphasize that determination and steady effort will lead them to success in their own time.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 mins.)

After watching the video, distribute the story sequencing worksheet and have the students complete it on their own or in groups. Collect as a formative assessment.