

***You're Never Too Young to Change a Life
on the Other Side of the World***

Ellie, age 9, Founder of KidKnits



Education. Empathy. Empowerment.

an enrichment program dedicated to creating the next generation of Global Leaders

Module 5: My 'Other' Side of the World

Introduction

In this activity, students will discuss the idea of “the other side of the world”, both physically and metaphorically, and be inspired to make changes in their own world. Students will watch the short video, *The Other Side of the World*. A class discussion will follow the conclusion of the video. A handout is included in the KidKnits workbook to facilitate student reflections.

The knitting projects will be completed today. Expect students to complete their projects at different times, based upon their knitting speed and skill. It has worked well for those students finishing early to assist their fellow classmates to in completing their hats. Students may also use extra time to work on the ‘Changing My World’ handout included in the KidKnits workbook. This lesson plan is based on a 90-minute class and suggested time periods are listed for each activity.

Steps

1. Open up the class session by viewing the short video, *The Other Side of the World*.
2. Ask students the following discussion questions:
 - What does the video say about how KidKnits got started?
 - What does the video say about what we mean by “the other side of the world”?
 - What does the video ask you at the end?
3. After discussing the video, ask students what Ellie needed to know in order to come up with the KidKnits’ idea? (The basic point to make is that she found out about a problem and connected it with her own experience learning how to knit.) Have students brainstorm a list (as a class or individually) of their own experiences and things they enjoy doing. (The basic point is for the class to observe that they have many talents and experiences to share, even at their young age.)
4. Ask students to work in small groups to write down 3-5 examples of problems they could work on to help change a life. They could list large scale charities that take local donations, but also encourage them to think of examples in their own school or neighborhood. Collect group lists and write some or all on a board for the class to see.

You might want to add some examples that you know about or some very simple ideas, such as: Someone doesn’t have...a book to read, enough clothes, a friend to talk to, enough English to understand their classes, anyone to help them with their studies.



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Ask students how they might help with the problems listed. If the ideas don't flow, use prompts like these:

Could you...

- donate or collect clothes, toys, or other items for a local charity?
- paint a picture that might cheer someone up?
- pay attention to someone who seems lonely?
- help a shy person get to know others?
- help another student with something they need to know, such as speaking English or another language? reading a story together, working math problems, studying for a particular class? using a computer or the internet?
- raise funds to donate to a good cause by holding a bake sale, artwork sale, or ...?
- talk to friends in other classes or schools about doing a KidKnits project?
- help someone get started knitting a hat?

5. Have the students use the worksheets included in the KidKnits' workbook to help them reflect on the KidKnits project and how they can use the leadership skills learned in the 'Education. Empathy. Empowerment.' Program to change the world.

