

Gratitude for our Human Family - Children

This guide contains many resources. We recognize that every community's needs are different, so feel free to pick and choose what works best for you.

Preparation

Gather a book (see options below) and other materials suited to the activities you choose, like a physical puzzle or craft materials. Explore the Other Resources (below) for more opportunities.

Read guidance for [Wondering with Children](#).

Gathering (Building the community/circle)

Choose a question related to the topic like below, or a song, or do a check-in (pluses and minutes, roses and thorns) to help welcome everyone into the space.

- Who is someone you are grateful for that you've never met in person?
- What is something you're glad that someone in your family did before you were born?

For a more hands-on gathering, as children respond to the gathering question, have them "become" a puzzle piece on the floor, making their bodies into the shape they want their puzzle piece to be. You can take a picture of this human puzzle to share afterwards.

Introduction

Many people make up our human family. Some we interact with directly and many more indirectly. Like a puzzle (you can show one as an example), there are many pieces, some close and some far from each other. But they are all connected. Even that piece you'd set aside not knowing where it goes has its place, and fits well there.

We only have a limited view of the whole from our own perspective. To see our human family clearly, we need to work to see from other perspectives too. Right Sharing of World Resources practices this by working with people in different countries. In a puzzle, every piece matters for completing the whole picture. How is life better when we remember that we are connected to people?

Possible hands-on activities that can be done during reading

Drawing - If you want to suggest possible themes, draw or print out equal sized hexagons for children to draw in as their puzzle pieces, which can be cut out and put together with others' pieces (hexagons are easy to fit together and can be a fun shape)

Coloring pages

Play-Doh

Pipe cleaners

Read a book (suggestions below)

[If Kids Ran the World by Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon](#) ([read aloud](#))

[Be a Good Ancestor by Leona Prince and Gabrielle Prince](#) ([read aloud](#))

[Home in a Lunchbox by Cherry Mo](#) ([read aloud](#))

[The Table by Winsome Bingham](#) ([read aloud](#))

Wondering Questions for during and after the reading

I wonder what part of the story you like best?

I wonder what part is the most important for you today?

I wonder where you are in the story or what part of the story is about you?

I wonder if there is any part of the story that we can leave out and still have all the story we need?

I wonder...

Reflection

Choose a question to respond to that's connected to the theme:

Who does a lot of work for our human family that you hadn't thought about before?

What's something you want more of for our human family?

Other Resources / Extending the Lesson

[Turning of the World](#) ([song](#))

Games and Activities

Send a Thank You Note (or email or text) - Think of someone you appreciate who is outside of your family or school, and write them a note sharing what you appreciate about them. These can be shared with this person, or not.

Scavenger Hunt - Find objects and materials around you that you are thankful for (each person finds 1). Share why you're thankful for this, and how you think it came to being (e.g. your shirt, you can see where it was put together on the tag and you can guess who might have sewed the shirt in that place.

Blank Puzzle - Purchase a large blank puzzle and have each person draw on a puzzle piece in response to a query. Examples are to draw themselves, someone in the wider human family that they appreciate (e.g. a firefighter), or it could be in response to the story that is read (e.g. "If children ran the world, what is something that would be in it?" if that was the book that was read). This can also serve as an intergenerational activity.