

Intended for Grades: 4-8

Est. Time: 50-60 minutes

Draft: Apr. 2014

Lesson Title: LEADING THE PACK - Knowing School Mascots

Lesson Purpose: Participants will investigate how the characteristics and attributes of their school mascot may relate to themselves and how they, in return, can represent their school's spirit.

Materials & Preparation:

- * Handout – Leading the Pack-Mascot Research
- * Chart Paper
- * 5 x 13 paper - card-stock or construction paper
- * Pencil, colored pencils, markers, or crayons
- * *Instructor:* Prepare information about your school mascot animal or character to research using the Internet. (Check your school's website, too.)

Background Information: What is a Mascot?

School mascots are used to set schools apart from their competitors. Often, a mascot is a character or an animal used to portray assertiveness, courage, or heroism--traits the students can take pride in.

- * *Animals as Mascots* - Animals are the most popular mascots used in schools. Predatory animals like panthers or wolverines are popular for their self-confidence. Animals like rams or mustangs might be chosen for their gallantry.
- * *Local Mascots* - Some schools choose to use a mascot that represents the heritage of their neighborhood. For example, coastal schools might be known as the Whalers or a rural school might adopt a Cornhusker as a mascot.
- * *Religious Mascots* - Religious schools frequently prefer to assume biblical school mascots, such as the Crusaders or the Saints.
- * *Mascots in the Community* - School mascots can become so popular that their communities adopt them. Costumed mascots are often seen promoting local businesses or reaching out to community members.

Read more at:

http://www.ehow.com/facts_5007157_what-school-mascot.html#ixzz2XBWWFVS9

Steps:

1. Ask students to share what they know about mascots and what they symbolize. Discuss background information with the group. (3-5 min.)
2. Hand out to each student a "Leading the Pack - Mascot Research" paper (see below). Work in groups or as a class to research and document information about their mascot, using their prior knowledge and the Internet. (*Some schools have Mascot information on the school's web site. If yours doesn't, here's a purpose.) (20 minutes)

3. As a class, record research on a t-chart. (See example below - 10-15 min.)

4. After collecting data on their mascot, create mini banner anagrams using words that represent the values of that Mascot. (I.e.: HAWK: H – helpful; A - adapt to change; W-work together; K- know how to be *pono*) Have students display their mini banners around campus to promote school spirit. (15-20 minutes)

5. Debrief Reflection Questions (5 min)

***Extension ideas:* Create a school mural with the mascot and values it represents; write an article for a local newspaper; put information on your school website; share with younger students; create an art contest showing the mascot doing something that represents a value; have a group write a new school song or chant representing the mascot and its values, etc.

Reflection Questions:

* *How might understanding the purpose of a mascot help increase a positive school community?*

* *How can you positively contribute to your school's spirit?*

Resource sites:

* Read more:

http://www.ehow.com/facts_5007157_what-school-mascot.html#ixzz2XBWWFVS9

Symbols of some mascots:

* <http://www.animal-symbols.com/>

http://www.religionfacts.com/symbols/big_gallery_of_symbols.htm

<http://statesymbolsusa.org/Hawaii/Hawaii-state-symbols.html>

Name: _____

Date: _____

Leading the Pack - Mascot Research

Mascot: _____

Name



Image

1. What are your mascot's characteristics? List four or five of them.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

2. Write down four to five values your mascot represents:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

What personal connections can you make to this mascot? (*Write your reflection.*)

| Name of Mascot: | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Characteristics | Values |
| | |

T Chart Created by: _____