

Off To Washington



Level: K-5

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Define philanthropy as giving time, talent, or treasure for the common good.
- Identify different ways to give, including volunteering, donating, advocating.
- Understand that citizens in the United States have a responsibility to help others.
- Be able to identify the role and importance of community helpers
- List key landmarks in Washington, DC

In subsequent sessions, they can:

- create an image to communicate a philanthropic message.
- identify problems that affect their school
- develop service projects in or out of the school

Vocabulary

As these terms come up in discussion, list them on the board and elicit definitions from students. Help the class define the terms if necessary.

- philanthropy: giving time, talent, or treasure and taking action for the common good
- common good: working together with other members for the greater benefit of all; promotes the welfare of the community
- advocacy: the act or process of writing or speaking in favor of, or supporting, a cause
- citizen
- community
- responsibility
- service

Introduction

1. Begin the lesson by introducing the book with a book/picture walk. Display and discuss the following prompts:
 - a. I predict...
 - b. I think the main idea is ...



- c. I wonder why...
 - Elaborate on student ideas by asking questions about what is happening in pictures and where they are located.
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Discussion/Guided Learning

2. We are going to take a trip to Washington DC.
 - a. Discuss:
 - i. Where is Washington DC?
 - ii. Have you ever been to Washington DC?
 - iii. Who lives in DC?
 - iv. What is important about Washington DC?
 - v. Why are the characters traveling to Washington DC?
 - b. Show some of the landmarks they will visit on their trip.
 3. Review the main characters of the story.
 4. Begin reading the story, stopping after the first page to discuss why the students are visiting Washington, DC.
 5. What is community service?
 - a. Show one of the following videos (found on YouTube):
 - a. "Philanthropy and service learning- why do they matter?"
 - b. "Educational Video on Community Service for Kids"
 - b. What does it mean "to give"?
 - c. How do you feel when you give to others or the community? Give an example.
 6. Now, let's follow the students on their journey through the city. Continue reading.
 - a. Using a large displayed map of Washington DC and pictures of the landmarks, as the students visit a new landmark, pause in the story, discuss a few details, and place the landmark on the map.
 7. Continue reading the book through to the end and ask students:
 - a. What were the most important parts of the story?
 - b. What are you still wondering about?
 - c. Did you like the way the story ended?
 - i. Revisit "service"
 - Ask the students to share stories of giving time, talent, or treasure.
 - You may have them "think, pair, share" before telling the whole class their stories.
 - Reflect on how they felt about giving and how their stories show diverse ways to give and diverse needs they address.
 - Collect ideas on a class chart of ways to give, volunteer, help, donate, etc.
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Independent Practice:

1. Ask students what they care most about from this brainstormed chart. Discuss.
 2. Each student will write, draw, color, paint, or create collages of a community or volunteer in action. They may use ideas from the chart and characters from the story.
 3. When the students are finished, allow each person time to share their creation with the group and talk about why they drew this image.
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Extension:

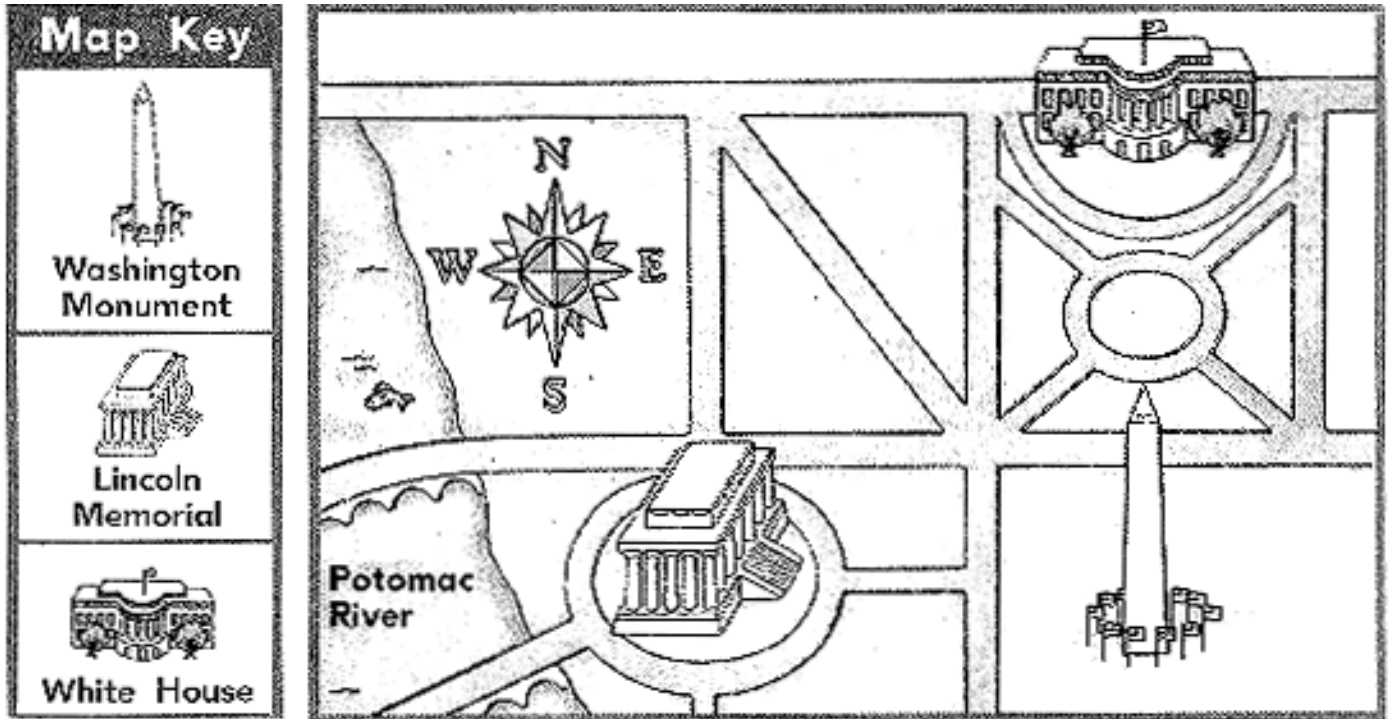
1. Complete a reading response sheet:
 - a. Choose from character development, sentence visualization, author's message.



Visit Washington, D.C.

This map shows where some important buildings are in Washington, D.C. Look at the map and the map key.

Then follow the directions below.



1. Put a * next to the White House.
2. Put a • next to the Washington Monument.
3. Put an ✕ next to the Lincoln Memorial.
4. Which building is closest to the river?
A. the Lincoln Memorial B. the White House
5. Which building has a circle of flags around it?
A. the White House B. the Washington Monument



Off To Washington Book Review

Name: _____

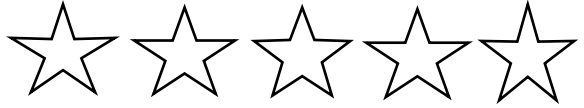
My favorite part of the book:



My favorite character

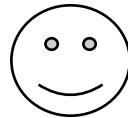
(draw a picture)

I would give this book

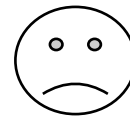


STARS

Would you recommend this
book to a friend?



Yes



No

