



Keep Trying Unit Grade 2 • Ages 7-8

TIME FRAME

Preparation: 15 minutes
Instruction: 30 minutes

MATERIALS

Pennies frozen in ice cube trays before class, enough for a pair of students

Paper towels or towel to wipe up water

RAK Journals

[Kindness Concept Posters](#) for Perseverance and Responsibility

LEARNING STANDARDS

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1, 1a-c, 3 Colorado: Reading, Writing and Communicating S.1, GLE.1, EO.b,c; S.1, GLE.2, EO.a-c

[Learning standards key](#)

RAK lessons teach kindness skills through a step-by-step framework of **Inspire, Empower, Act and Share**.

The **Share** step in the first lesson of each unit is intended to set the tone for teaching kindness.



Ice Cube Challenge

Students will experience a challenge that requires patience and perseverance and will employ strategies to work through a challenging task as a team.

Key Terms for Students

Consider writing key terms on the board before class to introduce vocabulary and increase understanding.

PERSEVERANCE Keep trying even when something is difficult, not giving up.

RESPONSIBILITY Being reliable to do the things that are expected or required in your life, home, community and environment.

PATIENCE Being able to do something or wait for something for a long time without getting upset or annoyed.

TIPS FOR DIVERSE LEARNERS

Students might benefit from:

- Drawing their response to the evaluation question.
- Seeing a video recording that you make of the class being kind to each other in different ways. Have the recording available in the classroom for students to review.
- Being acknowledged when they show kindness throughout the day.
- Recognizing each other's kind acts at a morning meeting or at the end of the day.

Share (3 mins)

*This week we are going to be talking about **perseverance** or when you keep trying even when something is hard. This can be frustrating at times. Can anyone share a time when they did something that took a long time and needed **perseverance**?*



Inspire

Discussion (5 mins)

How did you feel when you were done with the task?



Empower

Ice Cube Challenge and Discussion (10-15 mins)

Divide students into pairs.

We are going to play a game where you and your partner are going to try to get the penny out of the ice cube. There are a few rules: you can't put it in your mouth, hit it with another object or smash it. With your partner you will need to figure out how to get the penny out of the ice cube. The first team to get the penny out of the ice cube wins. Any questions?

Give each pair an ice cube with a penny inside and some paper towels and tell them to start.

After one pair gets the penny out of the ice cube, ask them some of the following questions:

- Was it hard or easy to get the penny out of the ice cube? Why?
- Did you want to quit? Why or why not?
- Why did you keep going?
- Did you or your partner ever talk about wanting to crack the ice cube or put it in your mouth? What do you think would happen if you took a shortcut and broke the rules?
- When you have to do something hard or challenging, do you usually tell yourself you can do it or that you can't do it? What do you think is the most helpful thing to do?
- What do you think it means to be responsible when you are working with a partner? How did you show **responsibility**?

Wrap Up (5 mins)

To gauge understanding of the material, choose from the evaluation and reflection questions as discussion, or writing or journal prompts. Consider providing additional time for deeper evaluation and reflection as needed.

Evaluation Questions

- What is **perseverance**?
- How was **perseverance** used in the Ice Cube Challenge?
- How can you show **responsibility** when working with others?

Reflection Questions

- Do you ever feel like quitting when something is hard? What do you do then?
- Why is it good to use **perseverance**?
- Can you think of an example where you had to show **patience** and **perseverance**?

Summary

Today we practiced perseverance. We took on a task that took patience and teamwork and tried to solve the problem without taking shortcuts and still being kind to each other. Perseverance is an important skill to learn in order to be successful in life and overcome many challenges you may face.



The RAK paradigm is the framework for teaching and building kindness skills.





Act (2 mins)

Kindness Minute

One great way to be kind to others is to encourage them when they feel like giving up. Think of something you can say to people when they are feeling that way and practice on the person next to you.

Kindness in Action

Think about your day. What is the hardest thing for you to get through without getting distracted or taking shortcuts? Do you have any tricks for helping yourself get that job done.

