

Understanding Cooperation

1.2 A LESSON FROM NATURE⁽⁴⁾

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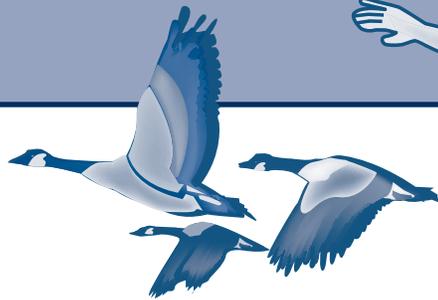
Targeted skills

Justify one's ideas, summarize ideas out loud, respect the comments of others in a discussion, come to an agreement.

2

Objective

Discover the components of cooperation.



Learning Activity



PREPARATION

Materials for each team

Three differently-coloured sheets, numbered 1, 2, 3
Student sheet “A Lesson from Nature” (page 20)
Four feedback sheets (page 21)
Large piece of cardboard (optional)
Markers, glue, scissors, etc. (optional)

Cooperative structures

TPS (think, pair, share)

Roles: spokesperson / displayer, secretary, intermediary,
time keeper / material manager

Group formation

Pairs, associated teams of two pairs



ACTIVITY

Getting started

Present “A Lesson from Nature” and draw parallels with cooperative work.

Procedure

INDIVIDUALLY

Read “A Lesson from Nature”. The students then write down two or three sentences beginning with “In this text, I understood that...” (sheet 1).

IN PAIRS

Students share their ideas and thoughts on the story. Then they both write down the key ideas they discussed (sheet 2).

AS A HOME GROUP

Variation 1

Each sub-group reads out its text, while the other pair listens, then they merge the ideas from both pairs into one text (sheet 3).

Variation 2

In associated teams of two pairs, students try to identify the characteristic features of the cooperative (such as having a common goal, working together, helping one another, encouraging, refusing to abandon a member or members of the group that need help) (sheet 3) and then make a poster of the main ideas discussed.



FEEDBACK

Feedback on the cooperative process

Have students complete the feedback sheet:
Among the skills listed on the following sheet, which ones did you develop today? Give an example of an action you performed today, based on these.



Reflections

Let students express their creativity in writing the final text or the poster. Make sure to provide them with the materials they need: scissors, glue, markers, etc.

STUDENT SHEET



A LESSON FROM NATURE⁽⁵⁾

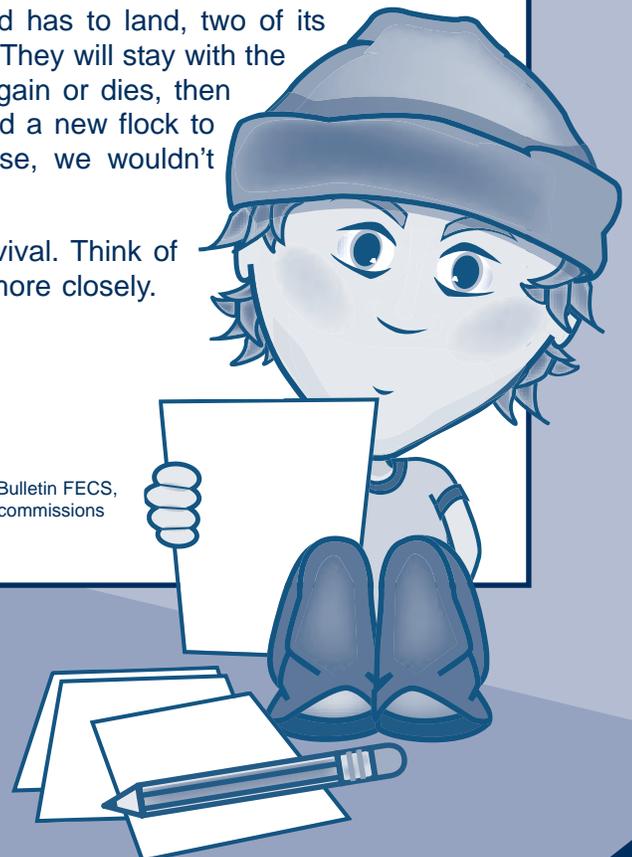
Next fall, when you see geese heading south for winter in typical V formation, think of the lesson that science has learned by observing the flying pattern of the geese. With each flap of its wings, the goose produces a current of ascending air for the next goose in the line. By flying in V formation, the flock can cover about 71% more distance than a goose flying solo. People who share a common goal can also reach their goal more quickly by working together.

Every time a goose gets out of formation, it faces increased wind resistance and so quickly falls back into line in order to take full advantage of the efforts of its fellow geese. If we had as much common sense as geese, we would work with people who are headed in the same direction as ourselves. When the lead goose gets tired, it moves to the back of the flying formation and is replaced by another. It is important for all members of the group to take a turn at the more difficult tasks. Each goose honks orders to encourage the goose behind them, so that all the geese keep up the pace.

If a goose gets tired or is wounded and has to land, two of its fellow geese will go along for protection. They will stay with the wounded goose until it is ready to fly again or dies, then they will fly off to rejoin their flock or find a new flock to join. If we had as much common sense, we wouldn't hesitate to help each other out.

In nature, teamwork is essential for survival. Think of all we could learn if we studied nature more closely.

5 - Lorraine Dugas, Syndicat de l'enseignement de Champlain, Bulletin FECS, Sainte-Foy, Fédération des enseignantes et enseignants de commissions scolaires, february-March 1994.



FEEDBACK SHEET



Personal Reflection

Name: _____ Date: _____

Among the skills listed on the following sheet, which ones did you develop today? Give an example of an action you performed today for each of these.

COOPERATION SKILLS	ACTION PERFORMED
Justified one's ideas	
Summarized ideas out loud	
Respected the comments of others in a discussion	
Came to an agreement	