



# Lesson Plan: Year 5 to Year 6



Pirate Day is an engaging way for students of all ages to learn valuable lessons about social awareness, teamwork, leadership and diversity. Here are some suggested ways you can incorporate these lessons into your classroom - choose one, two or all three!

## Lesson 1: Understanding and compassion (approx 1 hour)

### Brain Storm

**Task:** Read out a brief description of childhood/adolescent cancer and its effects on lifestyle. Have students discuss and write ideas on the board to answer this question: "How would your life change if someone you loved was affected by cancer?" Ask students to include all aspects of change such as feelings and sacrifice.

**Lesson recap:** Help students understand the concept of empathy and how their brainstorm ideas highlight the changes that occur to not only the one diagnosed with cancer but those around them. With more understanding, can the students workshop how they may be able to help?

**Teacher note:** Activity is linked to *Recognise Emotions*, an SEL self-awareness elements. Also *Contribute to Civil Society and Understand Relationships*, two SEL social-awareness elements.

## Lesson 2: Initiative

### Blind Mice

**Task:** Blindfold pupils and have them attempt to line up in height order. Give them 3-5 minutes. If they fail, ask one student to take their blindfold off and be a leader. They will be able to speak and direct the others (who must be silent) in line.

**Lesson recap:** Have students understand the difficulties of trying to organise things in a large group without a leader. If there was no strong leader role prevalent after the activity, encourage discussion such as, "Do you think it would have been easier or quicker if there was a leader? Why? Why not?" Help them understand anyone can be a leader and it doesn't always have to be someone older – they can be a leader too. Write a pros and cons list of having a leader if there is extra time.

**Teacher note:** Activity linked to *Teamwork and Leadership*, an HPE Learning through movement sub-strand.

## Lesson 3: Warmth in our community.

### Human Knot

**Task:** This is one you can try with the whole class together, or break into smaller groups. Ask students to stand in a circle facing inward. Have students reach their right arm towards the centre and grab someone else's hand (ensure no one grabs the hand of the person next to them). Next, have everyone reach their left arm in the middle to grab someone else's hand. Again, make sure it's not the person right next to them. The students need to work together to untangle the human knot without letting go of any hands. The goal is to end up in a perfect circle again. They can go over or under each other's arms, or through legs if needed! Encourage them to do whatever they want, as long as they don't break the chain in the process. For some extra fun, turn on a timer and see how long it takes them to get untangled! How quickly can they do it? *Tip: Watch this video for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BR6vE1N0pas>*

**Lesson recap:** The game helps pupils learn to work together and tackle a problem as a group. Relate this to how everyone's participation is needed in a community. Doesn't matter how large or small, everyone can play a part in solving a problem like childhood brain cancer.

**Teacher note:** Activity is linked to *Work Collaboratively as well as Negotiate and Resolve Conflict*, two SEL social-management elements.

## End of day recap

Thought starters for a class discussion at the end of the day:

- What have they learned today about empathy, leadership and community spirit?
- What will they do differently when they are faced with someone who has cancer?
- Create a list of how they might help someone who has cancer.

**Teacher note:** Reviewing each lesson links to *Develop Reflective Practice*, an SEL self-awareness element.

## THANK YOU!

We appreciate that as a teacher there is so much you need to get through each day. Thank you for taking time out to plan, host and facilitate activities to enrich your students' understanding of childhood cancer.



Pirate Day is a collaboration between  
The Kids' Cancer Project and The Pirate Ship Foundation.

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