

International Day of Families May 15

Global Themes

- Images and Perception

Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about the International Day of Families and the specific rights of children highlighted by this UN Day; families are responsible for helping children learn their rights and for ensuring that their rights are protected (CRC Article 5).

Background Information for Teachers

International Day of Families

un.org/esa/socdev/family/IDF.html

Grades

4 – 8

Materials

Book entitled *The Nanny Goat's Kid* by Tony Ross and Jeanne Willis

Families Protect Rights intermediate worksheet (printable copy attached)

Someone in My Family worksheet (printable copy attached), adapted from TC2

Colouring supplies: felt pens, crayons, pencil crayons

Activity One

- Introduce May 15th as International Day of Families; a UN day celebrated around the world. This day has special significance because children's health, education and overall development depend on the support the family provides (taken from UNICEF publication 2010).
- In a pre-reading discussion ask: What is a family? What roles are in a family? Why do we need families? Explain that families are not made only through flesh and blood (adoption, blended families, etc.).
- Read aloud from the book entitled *The Nanny Goat's Kid*.
- Turn to the page where Nanny Goat's son is kicked out of the herd. Ask the students to think about the rights that Nanny Goat protects for her son (Articles 3, 5, 6, 9, 19).
- Discuss the right to have family help children learn their rights and to ensure that their rights are protected. How can families help children learn their rights? What does your family do to help you learn your rights? What else could be done?
- Give each student a Families Protect Rights worksheet. Brainstorm which rights families help to protect (i.e., the right to food and clothing, the right to health care, the right to play and rest, and the right to education). Discuss how families help to protect their children's rights.
- Ask the students to select one right that their family protects/supports, and have them share the importance of family through a written form: poetry, essay, spoken word, short story, etc.

Activity Two

Grades 4-5

- Ask the students to think about someone in their family who is special to them. Have the students draw a picture of this person.
- Ask the students to write why this person is special to them by sharing a favourite memory of the person.
- Have the students complete the worksheet by drawing pictures to express what the person does with them, what the person is really good at and the person's favourite thing.
- Ask the students to share their page with the person they wrote about.

Grades 6-8

- Use the activities above to brainstorm for a project on identity. How does your family shape your identity? Which qualities do you admire in this special person?

Discussion

Even though families all around the world may look different, they can also be very much the same. What do you think this means?

Extensions

In small groups, role play a scene from *The Nanny Goat's Kid*.

Have students conduct research to create a family tree.

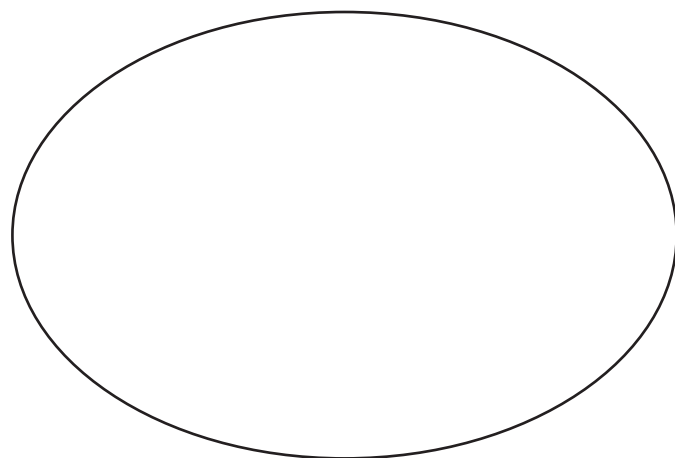
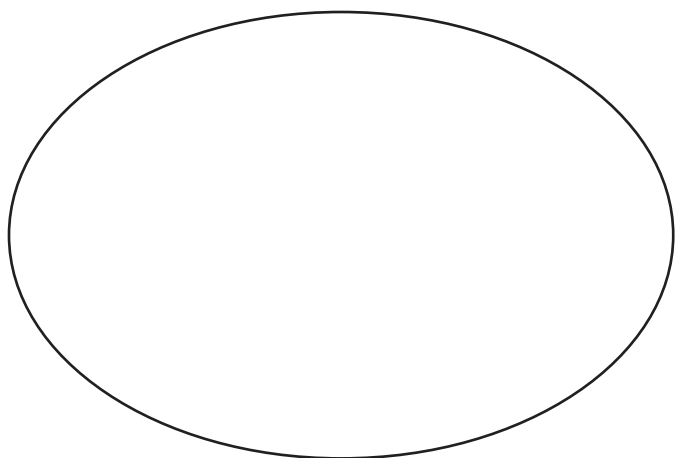
Additional Resources

Picture book entitled *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts

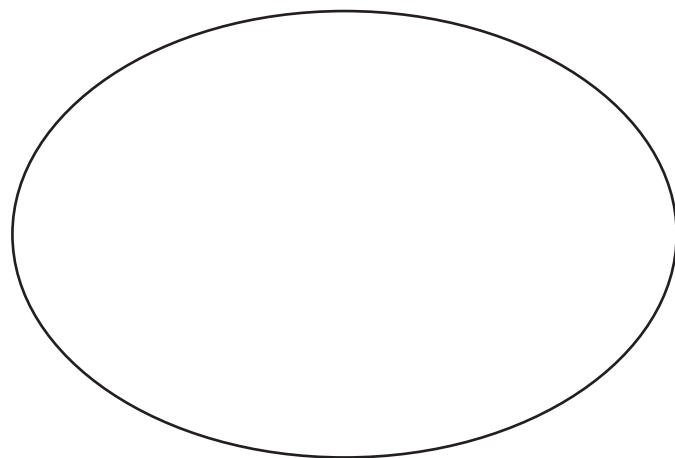
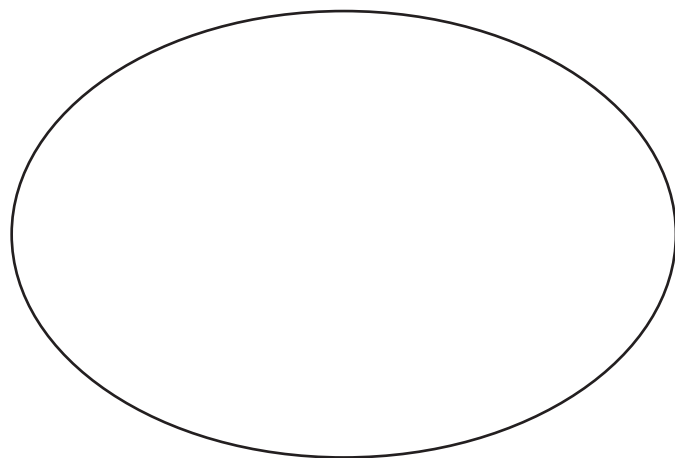
This is a very poignant tale of the consumer society in which we live. This book clearly defines the difference between needs (rights) and wants in a way kids can relate to with the main character, Jeremy, dreaming of high tops that are out of his grandmother's budget. Jeremy's grandmother plays a significant role in helping Jeremy understand the difference between his needs and wants.

Families Protect Rights Worksheet

Think of four rights that our families help to protect.
Write each right in a circle below.



Families help to protect our rights ...



Someone in My Family Worksheet

This is _____



A special memory I have is:

Draw a picture in each of the boxes below to finish this sentence:

This person is special because he/she ...

likes	_____ with me.	is really good at	has the quality of
			