



3-5 Pre-Visit Lesson Plan

Objective:

Students will analyze the concept of a hero, investigate notable figures from New Jersey, and reflect on how these individuals' achievements have impacted society in preparation for their field trip to the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

Standards:

- **NJSLS-ELA:** RI.3.2, RI.4.3, RI.5.3, SL.3.1
- **NJSLS-Social Studies:** 6.1.5.CivicsPI.5, 6.1.5.HistoryUP.5
- **Social Emotional Learning (SEL):** Social Awareness and Responsible Decision-Making

Materials:

- NJHOF Inductee bios- [Kid Bios](#)
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Student notebooks or journals
- Interactive whiteboard or projector

Lesson Plan Components:

Introduction (10 minutes):

- Begin with a class discussion: "What is a hero?" Have students brainstorm characteristics of a hero. Write their responses on the board.
- Explain that heroes come in many forms, from athletes and artists to scientists and activists, and that the New Jersey Hall of Fame celebrates these heroes from our state.
- Tell students that they will explore how people from New Jersey have made a difference in the world.


Direct Instruction (15 minutes):

- Provide brief biographies of several NJHOF inductees. [Kid Bios](#)
- Discuss each person's contributions and ask students to consider why these people might be seen as heroes.
- Emphasize how these individuals' accomplishments not only affected New Jersey but also impacted the world.



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Guided Practice (20 minutes):

- **Activity 1: "Meet Your New Jersey Hero"**
 - Distribute the pre-visit short bios and worksheets-  Kid Bios.pdf
 - Students will choose one inductee to research further. They will answer guided questions on the worksheet:
 - What did this person do that makes them a hero?
 - How did they make the world a better place?
 - What qualities or characteristics helped them succeed?
 - Allow students time to work on their worksheets individually or in pairs, then share their findings with the class.

Group Discussion (10 minutes):

- Invite students to present the NJHOF inductee they researched and explain why they think that person is a hero.
- As students present, add their ideas to a class chart showing the qualities and characteristics of NJHOF inductees (e.g., resilience, creativity, bravery, dedication).

Preview of the Field Trip (10 minutes):

- Use visuals to introduce the exhibits they will see at the NJHOF (e.g., Fly Me to the Moon, Karaoke, The Great Hall, Hometown Heroes). [Entertainment & Learning Center – New Jersey Hall of Fame](#)
- Ask guiding questions to build excitement and curiosity:
 - "What do you hope to learn about these heroes when we visit the Hall of Fame?"
 - "How do you think seeing the exhibits in person will help us understand the contributions these heroes made?"

Reflection (5 minutes):

- Have students write a short reflection in their notebooks: "What kind of hero do you want to be, and how can you start making a difference today?"
- Invite a few students to share their reflections with the class.

Assessment:

- Participation in class discussions and presentations.
- Completion of the pre-visit worksheet and reflection.

Extension Activity:

- **Hero Research Project:** After the visit, students can choose one NJHOF inductee to research in-depth and create a presentation or project on their chosen figure's life, contributions, and lasting impact.



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Homework/Family Connection:

- Ask students to interview a family member or neighbor about someone from New Jersey they consider a hero and why. Students can share these interviews in class before the trip.

Wrap-Up and Excitement Building:

- Remind students that their field trip to the NJHOF is an opportunity to learn more about these heroes up close. Encourage them to think of questions they would like to explore during the visit.