



Lean on Me (🌍 A Social Health Story)
(3rd Grade – 8-9 yrs.)
Demonstration: Better Together
Group Activity



STORY CONNECTION – SLIDE 3 (Approx Time: 10-15 mins)

In the wild, there are many examples of social behaviors that help to keep animals alive. Many animals work together to get food for themselves and others. Female lions hunt together in a group to get food for the “pride” of lions that live together. Bees have worker bees in the colony that take care of food collection. Animals help each other and this helps them to survive.

Materials needed:

- Paper
- Pencils
- Scissors

Preparation needed:

- Determine student grouping (some students will work independently for the purpose of the activity)

Instructions:

1. In this activity, students will learn more about the social behaviors of animals. They will also connect the advantages of the animals working together to their own lives.
2. The first part of this activity will demonstrate how working together is more beneficial than working alone. Put most of the students into groups of three or four. Have several students work alone. Group them or have them choose their groups prior to giving them their task.
3. Once students are grouped, give them paper, pencils, and scissors.
4. Tell them that they need to draw and cut out 100 squares in a designated amount of time.
Suggestion: 5-7 minutes maximum depending on the group.
5. Ask students if they have any questions or need any clarification. Clear up any misunderstandings.
6. Start the timer and have students begin the task.
7. When time is up, discuss the following topics about the process:
 - What made it easier for the groups to complete the task
 - What made it harder for the individuals.
 - What would the individuals need to be successful?
 - Lead the discussion to the advantages of working in a group at school.
8. Next, ask what a human, bee, bird, and zebra have in common—they all live in groups and are social animals.
9. Ask the students to think of the advantages of living in a group. They might say things like there are others to help find food, protection from predators, social interaction, help raising young, easier to find mates.

10. Ask the students to think of the disadvantages of living in a group. They might say things like competition for resources, risk of spreading illnesses, competition for mates.
11. After discussing the advantages and disadvantages, have students discuss if any of them apply to their lives or humans in general. The answer is yes! Have them give specific examples.
12. In closing, remind them that humans, like a lot of other animals, are social animals. If animals are social, that means that at various times in their lives and for varied reasons, these animals need help from other animals like them to survive in the world.

Activity Idea Credit: <https://learnbright.org/lessons/science/benefits-of-animal-group-behavior/>