

Chapter 3 Lesson 2: Developing Personal Identity and Character

Introduction

Good character is an important part of a healthy identity. You can develop and demonstrate good character traits at home, in school, and in your community. In this lesson, you learned about six basic traits of good character that you can cultivate. Visit the Six Pillars of Character Web site to learn more about these qualities.

Links to Explore:

The Six Pillars of Character

<http://www.josephsoninstitute.org/MED/MED-2sixpillars.htm>

Directions:

- Click on Making Ethical Choices and read the essay on the Six Pillars of Character.
 - After you have read this essay, answer the following questions:
1. What are the Six Pillars of Character?
 2. Under what circumstances is it ethically justifiable to tell a lie?
 3. Self-restraint is a characteristic of which pillar of character?
 4. According to this Web page, what pillar is the heart of ethical decision-making?
 5. Name one example of good citizenship cited on the Web page.
 6. Which one of the pillars deals with keeping promises?
 7. Does respecting others mean you need to hold all people in high esteem? Explain.

Answers:

1. Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship
2. When it is necessary to protect others from danger
3. Responsibility
4. Caring
5. Any of the following:
 - Knowing and obeying the laws
 - Volunteering
 - Staying informed on issues
 - Conserving resources
 - Recycling
 - Using public transportation
 - Cleaning up litter
6. Trustworthiness

7. No, it only requires you to treat everyone with dignity.

Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

Institute for Global Ethics

<http://www.globalethics.org/index.htm>

The Giraffe Heroes Project

<http://www.giraffe.org/gate.html>