

HONESTY

Teacher Resource

WHAT IS HONESTY?

Telling the truth.

BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.68.R.1.2** Describe the importance of empathy, kindness, **honesty** and trust in building and sustaining relationships.
- ✓ **HE.68.R.2.1** Discuss how character is shaped by attitudes, decisions and actions.

PURPOSE

- ▶ These interactive activities will help your students explore the complex layers of **honesty** and the importance of being truthful in building and sustaining relationships. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing **honesty**.



Suggested Introduction:

“You are familiar with **honesty** and the importance of telling the truth. **Honesty** is fundamental in building and sustaining relationships with others, and it creates a foundation of trust, empathy and kindness. When you are **honest**, you are demonstrating that you value the relationship enough to be truthful, even when it may be difficult. **Honesty** requires good character, and it is shaped by your attitude, decisions and actions. When you are **honest**, you are building trust because people will know they can rely on you.”



Activities to Build Honesty:

1 Think, Pair and Share

Facilitate a discussion with students to explore **honesty**. Divide students into partners or small groups. Present students with scenarios that will encourage critical thinking about **honesty**, kindness and empathy in relationships (e.g., you receive a present you don't like, giving feedback in a group project or setting). After the discussion, talk with students about why **honesty** is important, how empathy plays a role and how decisions reflect character.

Possible discussion topics include:

- Why is it important to be **honest** even in difficult situations?
- How can we use kindness and understanding when being **honest** with others?

HONESTY

Teacher Resource



Activities to Build Honesty (Continued):

2 Build a “Trust Pyramid”

Help students visualize how **honesty**, empathy and kindness are foundational in building strong relationships by having students create a visual of a “trust pyramid.” Start with the base being built on traits like **honesty**, empathy, kindness and trust. At each level, students will add how these traits help maintain healthy relationships (e.g., respect, communication) until they reach the top, symbolizing a strong, supportive relationship. Discuss with students how relationships that are built on these values create a strong foundation and how these values reflect good character.

3 Honesty in the Judicial System

Present a scenario to students demonstrating **honesty** in the courtroom (e.g., Imagine a courtroom where someone is accused of a crime. A witness saw what happened but lies on the witness stand. The lie causes the judge and jury to make the wrong decision.). Pair students with a partner and ask them to discuss the following:

- Why is **honesty** important in the judicial system?
- What might happen if **honesty** isn’t valued in the judicial system?
- What could happen if people, such as witnesses, lawyers or judges, were not **honest** during a trial?

Have students share their ideas with the class. Encourage students to think about fairness, justice and the consequences of dishonesty. Summarize the discussion by emphasizing that the judicial system relies on **honesty** to ensure fair decisions, protect innocent people and hold guilty people accountable.



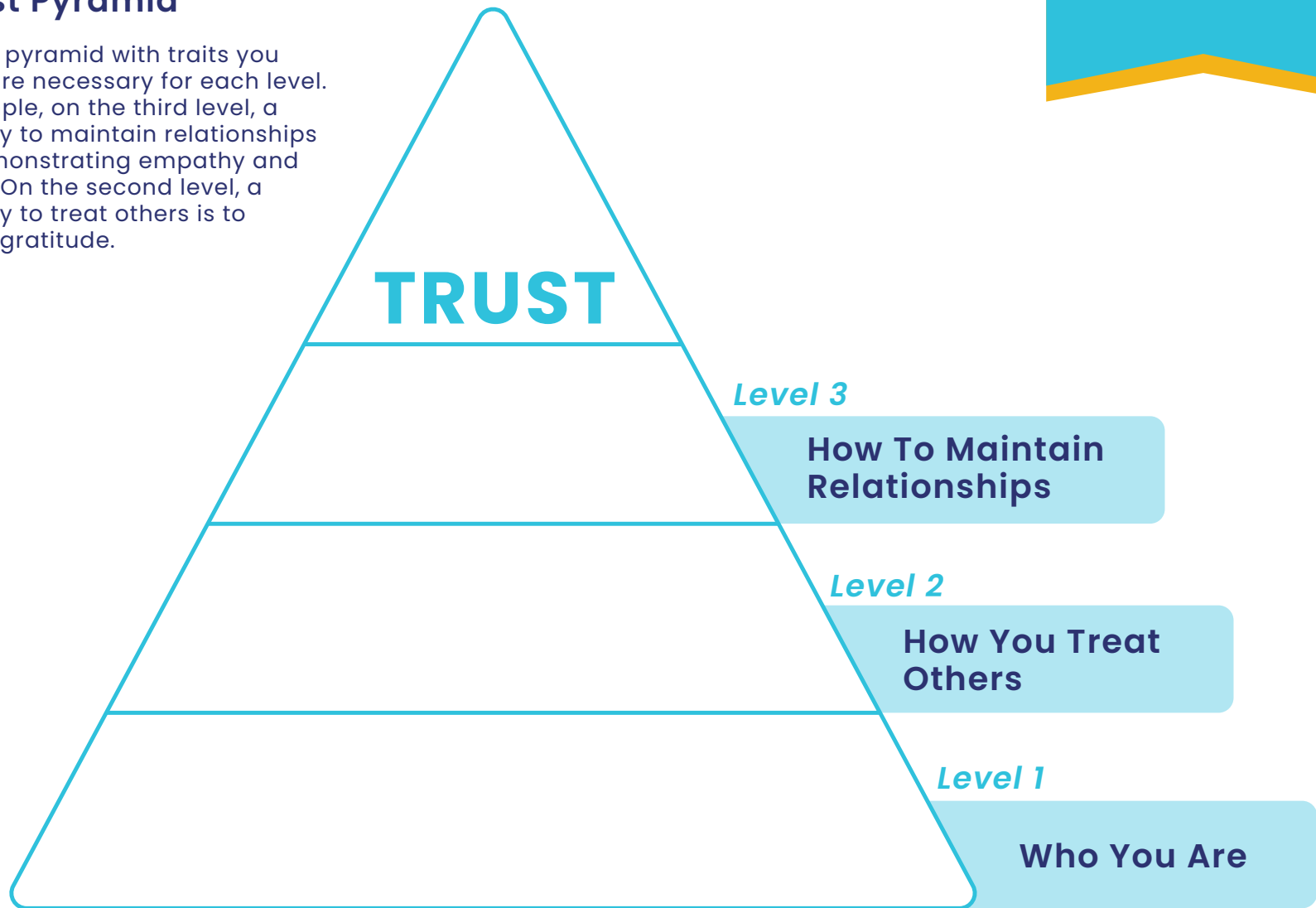
Suggested Wrap-Up:

“Today, we have explored the importance of **honesty** and the importance of this characteristic in building good relationships. As you go through the week, look for opportunities to practice **honesty** and appreciate when others are **honest** with you. Remember, **honesty** is a choice we make daily, one that strengthens our relationships, enriches our lives and builds character.”

HONESTY

Trust Pyramid

Fill in the pyramid with traits you believe are necessary for each level. For example, on the third level, a great way to maintain relationships is by demonstrating empathy and honesty. On the second level, a great way to treat others is to practice gratitude.



This is a supplemental document to support the 6-8 Honesty Teacher Resource.