



EduTrend Contents

P4C · POWER AND LEADERSHIP · PRIMARY

Who Should Be the Leader?

Forest animals choose a leader

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Who Should Be the Leader?

The facilitator tells a story about forest animals choosing a leader. The lion says “Choose me, I am the strongest.” The owl says “Choose me, I am the wisest.” The ant says “Choose me, I work hardest and listen to everyone.” Children vote, explain their choice, then create questions and vote on one, such as “What makes a good leader?”

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- compare leadership qualities;
- ask a question about leaders;
- give a reason;
- take turns to speak.

KEY WORDS

leader · strong · wise · listen · choose · help

CURRICULUM LINKS

PSHE: teamwork. English: animal stories. Maths: tally votes.

1

STIMULUS

Share something to think about

2

THINK

Quiet thinking time

3

QUESTION

Create and choose a question

4

ENQUIRE

Reason together

5

BUILD

Agree, disagree, add

6

REFLECT

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Lion, owl and ant pictures
- Voting counters
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Tell the forest leader story.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“What makes a good leader?”</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Say who should lead the forest and why.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Philosophers have asked who should lead and why since ancient times.

Animal characters let young children compare strength, wisdom and care as reasons for leadership.

Common ideas to listen for

- “The biggest should lead.” Size is not everything.
- “Leaders do whatever they want.” Good leaders listen.
- “Only grown-ups can lead.” Children lead too.

Adapting the activity

Support

Compare two animals.

Stretch

Ask: could the animals take turns to lead?

WORKSHEET 1

Choose a leader

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and write.

Choose a leader

Animal	Good at...
Lion	
Owl	
Ant	

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Does the leader have to be the strongest? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Compares qualities	Gives a reason	Takes turns

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Who Should Be the Leader? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Power and Leadership programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

© 2026 EduTrend Contents. This activity may be printed and copied for use with pupils in your own school, club or home. It may not be resold or published elsewhere. Photos: Marlis Trio Akbar / Unsplash.