



# The Hundredth Monkey

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## ☀ Values

- Curiosity
- Imagination
- Wisdom
- Leadership
- Social Emotional Learning

## ☀ Reflection Questions

What is a “critical mass”?

How would you describe the “Hundredth Monkey Phenomenon” to someone?

Have you ever experienced the power of one person changing a habit or belief?

## ☀ Lessons Learned

Big people can learn from the little ones.

Sometimes it takes just one more person to change things in a very big way.

Every time we adopt a new positive habit or belief that helps others, we make the world a better place.

This is the story of how one young female monkey on an island in Japan tried something new and solved a big problem. When “each one teaches one,” we can create an ideological breakthrough for the entire species - a “critical mass” - working towards the same goal. This simple story shows us how we can increase our collective wisdom and get one person closer to changing the world. It also reminds us what can happen when adults learn from children.

## ☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity

Invite students to choose one of the community heroes from Stone Soup for the World and write a report on how they are helping create the “Hundredth Monkey Phenomenon.” Ask students to make up a story with a theme similar to that of the “Hundredth Monkey.” Encourage them to use dialogue, be creative and have fun! Have students develop a list of bad habits they would like to change. Engage them in a discussion about how each of them might change just one habit. Ask them to experiment the power of change by choosing one habit each week. Share their experiences weekly.

## ☀ Social Studies: Diversity

Conduct a study of how people worked together to change the laws on smoking in public places. What actions did they take? How long did it take to change things? Interview parents about how the social climate has changed for smokers/non-smokers. Write a report.

## ☀ Community Service: Service Learning

Collect unusual postal stamps from envelopes and send them to a charity. Have students decide on 100th Monkey project to sponsor that would improve the world. Host a “Hundredth Monkey” evening as a community-building event at your school. Have students read the story aloud and give copies to all participants. Invite a trained facilitator to ask people to consider changing one habit together to experience the power of increasing the collective wisdom of humanity.



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