

Episode 3: Robbers Cave 5 Minute History Lesson

Teacher's Guide

The Cumming Center's 5 Minute History Lessons (5MHL) are a series of short films about interesting people and stories from the psychology's history. The 5MHL's use archival documents, photographs, sound recordings, and films housed in the Archives of the History of American Psychology to tell the stories of individual psychologists and psychological research.

The 5MHL Scavenger Hunt activities are meant to be used by instructors to provide a broad understanding of a variety of topics. Scavenger hunts can be done in class (face-to-face or virtual) or assigned as homework projects.

Instructors can determine the depth of the project and should allow 30-45 minutes. The scavenger hunts can simply be completed by students, or they can serve as a jumping off point for more in-depth class discussions. Suggested discussion points are included.

Instructions and answer sheets are found for *Episode 3: The Robbers Cave* on the following pages.

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Level: high school students, undergraduate college students

Time: 30-45 minutes

Objectives: By the end of this activity students will:

1. have a general understanding of the Robbers Cave Study
2. be able to explain realistic conflict theory using current examples compared to the Robbers Cave study
3. have a basic understanding of how archival materials can be used to tell a story

BEFORE the 5 Minute History Lesson (5MHL) [5 minutes]:

Ask your students what they already know about the Robbers Cave Study. Make note of their responses for later discussion.

DURING the 5 Minute History Lesson [15-25 minutes]

Link: <https://youtu.be/8PRuxMprSDQ>

Students should watch The Robbers Cave 5MHL without taking notes. Students should watch The Robbers Cave 5MHL a second time and simultaneously complete the scavenger hunt (*Activities & Documents, page 1*).

AFTER the 5 Minute History Lesson [15 minutes]

Initiate a discussion using the following questions or ask your students to answer them in short answer form:

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KNOW What is something you learned from the video that you didn't know previously? Why does this stand out to you as interesting?

DO/APPLY a SKILL Think about how the results of the study might have been different if the subjects of the study had been more diverse? What other variables might have resulted in different findings?

FEEL/UNDERSTAND Why do you think Robbers Cave has become so well known? In your experience, does the study show parallels with anything in current world news?

1: In a sentence or two describe the Sherifs' main idea on conflict.

Answer: Conflict arises when groups compete for limited resources.

2: Who were the participants in the study?

Answer: 22 white, middle-class, protestant children ages 11 and 12

3: What were the three stages of the Robbers Cave study?

Answer: Bonding, Competition Stage, Reducing Friction Stage

4: What are superordinate goals? Can you give an example of one used in this study?

Answer: Larger goal for the good of both groups; examples include the camp water issue, pooling money for movie night, etc.

5. Did the Robbers Cave Study illustrate realistic conflict theory? If yes, how? If no, why not?

Answer: Yes. The two groups competed for limited resources, creating conflict, and then worked together for a larger goal, solving the problem and reducing conflict.



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