



Disney  
**THE LION KING**  
**EDUCATION PROGRAMME**  
**'HOW TO' GUIDE**



The 'Circle of Life' award has been created by Young Citizens in partnership with the Disney Theatrical Group

# An introduction to the 'Circle of Life' award

**A social action project framework designed to encourage young people to create positive change in their community.**

Created by Disney Theatrical Group, in partnership with the education charity, Young Citizens, this project draws on Simba's story and the themes at the heart of The Lion King musical. Through participation, young people are inspired and empowered to tackle real community issues.

Working in their project group, young people start by identifying an issue they want to change. Supported by their teachers, the learners are then responsible for planning and implementing a social action project that addresses either the root cause, or the effects of this issue. Join a national movement of schools inspired to make a difference locally!

## How it works

1. Select your group(s)
2. Schedule up to 6 sessions together and allow time for the project to take place
3. Work through the phases 'Aspirations', 'Planning' and 'Implementation'  
Please note: Use as much of the resources as you wish, this framework is designed to be flexible and provide you with as much support as you need, please adapt resources as you require to make it work for your group.
4. Undertake your project and please ensure you share your school's safeguarding policy about communicating with external people and organisations clearly with the students.
5. Tell us about your project to receive your award
6. Any questions please email [theatreducationuk@disney.co.uk](mailto:theatreducationuk@disney.co.uk)

## Key benefits of participation

Youth social action is gaining increased attention from many education and policy leaders, including Ofsted. It is valued for its double-impact model whereby it benefits:

- the young person to develop key employability skills such as resilience, problem solving, communication, teamwork and project management
- wider society by developing a more empathetic and compassionate citizenry, with a sense of agency to address change to benefit others in our community

It is also a great opportunity for your school to foster new or deeper links with your local community. On completion of your school's project you will receive a framed 'Circle of Life' award. This acknowledges your school's commitment to social action and to serving its community.



#CircleofLifeAward

# The resources

The 'Circle of Life' award resources are broken down into three phases to reflect the steps the young people will go through when planning a new social action project.

Complete sessions 1A to 3B in order. Download the 'Teacher Notes' from within the 'Teacher Pack' for a step by step session guide. Sessions 'A' are teacher-led, sessions 'B', are student-led, but you will need to be present to support. Sessions should last approximately 50 minutes.

Refer to a PDF presentation and to three videos from The Lion King company when prompted in the 'Teacher Notes'. You will need an internet connection to play the videos, and a large screen to share the presentation. Student worksheets can also be downloaded from the website.

## **Phase 1 – Aspirations**

1A – the teacher-led resource introduces the students to the 'Circle of Life' award and encourages young people to consider their local community and their aspirations for the area.

1B – this student-led resource will get the students to start assigning roles in their teams and consider how they can turn their aspirations into practical possibilities.

## **Phase 2 – Planning**

2A – the teacher-led resource will help the students to start effectively planning the project, they will confirm roles, timelines and the details of the project.

2B – this student-led resource will encourage the young people to plan their project in further detail, assigning tasks and researching possible external partners.

## **Phase 3 – Implementation**

3A – this teacher-led session will guide the students as they complete the planning and timelines in their student pack.

3B – this student-led session will allow the students to complete their planning and start focusing on how they might coordinate and publicise their project through press releases etc.

**All the resources can be downloaded from this website.**

## **Apply for 'Circle of Life' award**

Once the project is completed a project representative (teacher or young person) can submit details of your school's project at [www.lionkingeducation.co.uk/circleoflifeaward](http://www.lionkingeducation.co.uk/circleoflifeaward)  
Once the submission is received and has been reviewed, your school will receive your



#CircleofLifeAward

'Circle of Life' award in recognition of your school's commitment to creating a fairer and more inclusive world through young people's social action.

"The Circle of Life Project gave our students an amazing opportunity to adopt an outward looking vantage point that hones into the needs of their community. It provided the young people with a safe and supported structure through which they can demonstrate kindness, compassion and thoughtful citizenship." Nina Moore, Headteacher, Full Circle Education

## Your role and the programme delivery

Young Citizens have resourced and trained more than 10,000 teachers in social action over the past decade. This experience informed the way the 'Circle of Life' award has been designed for maximum flexibility.

- You can decide whether to use the suite of teaching and learning resources to initiate new ideas, or to help guide existing social action projects for even greater impact
- You can choose to run this programme during curricular or extra-curricular time
- You decide whether it's for everyone, or for a self-selecting group
- The resources are optional and you can adapt them to suit the needs of your students
- Once the students have completed their social action project, either a youth representative or you will need to submit a short form to apply for the 'Circle of Life' award. We are looking forward to hearing all the wonderful ways in which young people lead positive change in their communities.



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