



Meet the Stakeholders

Working together to understand needs!



EXPLORE



DISCUSS



IDENTIFY



CREATE



APPLY



Our Stakeholders



Grade Range

K - 5



Estimated Time

35 - 50 minutes



Key Concept

Stakeholders
Needs and Perspectives



STEM Connection

Real-World Problem Solving
Collaboration

Teacher Overview

Projects affect people. Some people use the result, some help create it, some make decisions, and others may have needs that the project team must understand. These people are stakeholders. This lesson helps students identify stakeholders and recognize that different people can view the same project from different perspectives.

Learning Objectives

- Define a stakeholder in age-appropriate language.
- Identify people or groups who may affect, help, use, or be affected by a project.
- Describe how different stakeholders can have different needs and perspectives.
- Practice asking questions that help a project team understand stakeholder needs.

Penny's PM Concept

Penny says:
“A great project is not only about what we build. It is also about understanding the people who will use it, help with it, or be affected by it. Good project managers listen before they decide.”

Key Vocabulary

Word	Kid-Friendly Meaning
Stakeholder	A person or group who can help, make decisions, use the result, or be affected by a project.
Need	Something a stakeholder requires or believes is important.
Perspective	The way someone sees or thinks about a situation.
Question	Something we ask to learn more or understand another person's needs.
Input	Ideas, information, or feedback someone provides to the project.
Decision Maker	A person or group responsible for approving or choosing something important.

Lesson Plan: Meet the Stakeholders

1. Who Cares About the Project? - 5 minutes	Choose a familiar project, such as creating a new class reading corner. Ask: Who would use it? Who might help? Who might make decisions? Who could be affected? Write each person or group around the project idea.
2. Introduce Stakeholders - 7 minutes	Explain that all of these people can be stakeholders. Stakeholders do not all have the same role. Some use the result, some provide help or information, some approve decisions, and some are affected by what the team creates.
3. Different People, Different Needs - 8 minutes	Use a playground example. Students may want exciting equipment. Teachers may care about supervision. Families may care about safety. Maintenance staff may care about durability. Explain that these needs can all be important even when they are different.
4. Stakeholder Detective Challenge - 15 minutes	Teams choose a simple project and complete the Stakeholder Map worksheet. They identify at least four stakeholders, describe what each might need, and write one question they would ask each stakeholder.
5. Share and Reflect - 5 minutes	Teams share one stakeholder they almost forgot. Discuss how missing an important stakeholder could create problems later in the project.

Discussion Questions

- Can someone be a stakeholder even if they are not on the project team?
- Why might two stakeholders want different things from the same project?
- What could happen if the team never asks users what they need?
- How can listening to stakeholders make a project better?

Student Worksheet: My Stakeholder Map

Name: _____ Date: _____

Our Project: _____

STAKEHOLDER	HOW ARE THEY CONNECTED?	WHAT MIGHT THEY NEED?	WHAT SHOULD WE ASK?
1. _____			
2. _____			
3. _____			
4. _____			

STAKEHOLDER CHECK
Did we include the people who will use the result? YES / NOT YET
Did we include people who will help or provide information? YES / NOT YET
Did we include anyone who may approve or make decisions? YES / NOT YET
Did we consider people who may be affected by the project? YES / NOT YET

Reflection & Quick Assessment

Duke's Stakeholder Challenge:

Before the team makes an important project decision, ask: **Who will this affect? Have we listened to them? What do we still need to learn?**

Exit Ticket

In your own words, what is a stakeholder?

Name two stakeholders for a classroom project.

Why might different stakeholders have different needs?

Circle one: I can identify project stakeholders: YES / ALMOST / NOT YET

Teacher Check for Understanding

- Student can explain the basic meaning of stakeholder.
- Student can identify multiple stakeholder groups for a project.
- Student recognizes that stakeholders may have different needs or perspectives.
- Student can create a useful question to learn more from a stakeholder.

Extension Activities

STEM Extension: Give students a design challenge such as creating a container for classroom supplies. Before designing, assign stakeholder roles - student user, teacher, custodian, and classroom helper. Teams must gather one requirement from each stakeholder before they begin.

Home Connection: Ask students to choose a family project and interview two people who would be affected by it. Have them record one need or preference from each person.

Teacher Tip: Avoid teaching stakeholders only as a list of people. The deeper skill is learning to ask whose needs, knowledge, decisions, or experience should influence the project.

Next Resource: Building Your Project Team - helping students understand team roles, responsibilities, and how different strengths contribute to project success.