



Citizenship: Being a Good Citizen

By: Janelle Cox
M.S. in Education

Social Studies
Grades K-2



Introduction

Students will watch a video, listen to stories, and partake in whole-group, small-group, and individual activities on how to be a good citizen.

Ask students what they think it means to be a good citizen. Then ask students to give you examples. Explain to students that this week they will be learning about citizenship and what it means to be a good citizen. Then, show students the brief video (about two minutes) about good citizenship and social skills for kids to help them get a better idea of what they will be learning about.

Learning Objectives

- Students will identify and describe the character traits of a good citizen, as well as understand what makes a good citizen and why we have rules and need to follow authority.

Materials Needed

- Good citizenship and social skills for kids [video](#)
- The book [How Kids Can Be Good Citizens](#) by Gina M. Bennett
- The book [What if Everybody Did That](#) by Ellen Javernick

Procedure

Activity 1: What is a Good Citizen?

1. After students watch the video have students come together on the carpet to discuss the characteristics of what makes a good citizen. Talk about how a good citizen is respectful, helpful, and considerate to others. Then, ask students to list a few more characteristics of what they think it means to be a good citizen and list them on chart paper.
2. Next, read the book *How Kids Can Be Good Citizens* by Gina M. Bennett. After the story, talk about all the lessons that it taught. For example, lesson two says to choose your friends wisely and if you see something bad to say something. Go back through the book and stop at each lesson and ask students to relate the lesson to their life and to give you an example. For instance, a student may talk about lesson two and say they made a mistake and chose a friend to hang out with that always got them into trouble. Discuss how being a good citizen means to also make good decisions.

Continued on page 2



Citizenship: Being a Good Citizen

By: Janelle Cox
M.S. in Education

Social Studies
Grades K-2



Continued from page 1

Activity 2: Good Citizens Follow the Rules

1. For the next activity, students will learn how good citizens follow the rules. Read the story *What if Everybody Did That* by Ellen Javernick. Then discuss with students that following the rules is an important part of being a good citizen. Ask students to think about the story they just heard and to share if they have ever broken the rules before like the boy in the story.
2. Next, discuss how being a good citizen in the classroom is important too. Tell students that now you're going to say a few statements and they should put a "thumbs up" if they think the statement is something you should do in school, and a "thumbs down" if it's something you should not do in school.
 - You want to be the first person on the playground, so you run in the hallway.
 - Your teacher asks you to collect homework, so you listen to the teacher and do it.
 - A friend has a toy you want, so you take it from them.
 - You're at a learning center with friends and you are using nice words.
 - Your teacher says it's time to clean up, so you listen and then sit nicely and wait for directions.
 - Your friend is on the swing you want, so you push them off it.

Activity 3: How to be a Good Citizen

1. This next activity will show students all the ways that they can be a good citizen. First, have students brainstorm all the ways they think they can be a good citizen and write them down on an anchor chart. Students may suggest: obeying the rules, following directions, making good decisions, having good manners, working hard, volunteering, etc.
2. Next, have students work independently to draw a picture that shows an example of good citizenship. Then, have students write one sentence that describes their picture.

Activity 4: Good Citizens Make Good Choices

1. For this activity students will understand that good citizens make good choices. Divide students into small groups of about 3-5 students. Then ask each group to think of a scenario of how a good citizen would respond and how a bad citizen would respond. Give students this example, "You're at the ice cream parlor and you see someone drop a dollar, what do you do?" Ask students to come up with a skit for their idea.
2. Next have students present their skits to the class.
3. Once all students have presented, come back together as a class and discuss how the choices you make determine if you are a bad citizen or a good citizen. Then, brainstorm ideas on the board of what makes a good/bad citizen.

Page 2



Citizenship: Being a Good Citizen

By: Janelle Cox
M.S. in Education

Social Studies
Grades K-2



Continued from page 2

Evaluation

- Exit ticket – Have students come to your desk and give you three examples of what makes a good citizen.
- Observe students in groups.
- Check for student understanding on activity three's picture.