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A Good Citizen

Topics covered

- Civic sense
- Who is a neighbour?
- Places around us
- Elections

TP



Look at these pictures and tick the sentences that you agree with.

- The children have tried to solve a problem that is affecting many people.
- They know that they should care about the place where they study.

CIVIC SENSE

These children saw a problem affecting many people and tried to solve it. They have civic sense which means a sense of **responsibility** towards the people and places around us.

Responsibility means a duty to take care of somebody or something. **Citizens** have duties and responsibilities towards:

- their neighbours and other people.
- the place where they live, study or work—the neighbourhood, city and country.
- the environment (you will read about this in a later chapter).
- rules and laws—for example, school rules or the rules on how to keep roads safe.

TP Discuss

How does 'civic sense' apply to students while they are in school?

WHO IS A NEIGHBOUR?

Neighbours are people who live close by. Sometimes these are known people, but sometimes they may be unknown people. There are many other people whom we do not know, like fellow travellers in a bus or train. How should we behave towards them?

Read this story:

Two men lay badly injured by the side of the road. Many people passed that way in cars, auto-rickshaws, buses and other vehicles. No one stopped to help them. Eventually a man in a car stopped. He did not know the injured men but he put them in his car and took them to a hospital so that they could be treated for their injuries.

Think and answer



In the story above,

- Who was a 'good neighbour' to the injured men? Why?
- Why do you think the other people did not stop to help?
- Can we be good neighbours to people whom we do not know?

We should be kind and helpful to people we know but we should also be kind, helpful and caring towards other people. This is what a good citizen does and it is the true meaning of being a good neighbour. Good neighbours think and care about other people. For example: does someone need help? Will our actions upset someone else? If we think only about ourselves, we cannot be good neighbours. The people who passed the injured men without helping them did not think about them. They thought only about themselves.

THE PLACES AROUND US

Places like roads, parks, hospitals, buses and trains are owned by the government but they belong to each one of us. They are **public property**. Monuments too belong to all of us as they are our heritage. Look at the pictures on the next page of how monuments and public property are treated sometimes:



Helping an injured man



A monument on which people have scribbled



A train burned by a mob of angry people

Think and answer

- Why do people spoil monuments in this way?
- Why do people burn public property when they are angry?
- Who are the people affected by such actions?



Did you Know?



The Archaeological Survey of India looks after heritage monuments, but they find it difficult to prevent people from writing on monuments.

You have learnt how important it is to look after historical buildings and monuments. It is also important to look after public property that belongs to us all.

Belongings like our homes, books or clothes are our **private property**. People take care of their private property. Your school may be private property too as it may not belong to the government. Just as we take care of our own things, private property that belongs to anyone else should be respected and taken care of. For example, it is the responsibility of students and people in the school to look after and be careful about school property.

It is the civic duty of *all* citizens to take care of public and private property. When they do so, they are good citizens.



A private school

Discuss

TP

Why should citizens take care of public and private property?

ELECTIONS

Find out how an election works by choosing a class captain.

- Divide the class into three groups. Each group chooses a child who would make a good captain. This is their **candidate**.
- The candidates and their groups think about why he or she would make a good captain.
- On election day, each candidate makes a speech saying why he or she would make a good captain.
- After this, your teacher will help you to hold an election to choose a class captain.
- When everyone has voted, the candidate who gets the most votes becomes the class captain.

India has governments in villages, towns or cities, the states and in New Delhi. Each of these governments is chosen by the people through voting in an election, just as you voted in class.

A citizen of India who is of 18 years or above has the right to vote. To be able to vote, such people have to register as voters with the Election Commission.

In many places, voters go to vote in large numbers during an election, but in some other places, very few people vote. Some reasons for this could be: they may not be registered as voters; they may find it difficult to reach the **polling booth** (the place where they vote); or they may decide not to vote.

It is an important civic duty of citizens to make sure that they can vote and also that they do vote on election day.

By following rules and carrying out civic duties and responsibilities, we can all be good citizens.



Queues of voters outside polling booths

Discuss

Why do we have rules?
What would happen if there were no rules?



Values and Life Skills

Why is it important for us to remember and do our civic duties at all times?



REMEMBER

1. Citizens have a responsibility to be caring and thoughtful towards others.
2. Citizens also have a responsibility to take care of public and private property.
3. All Indian citizens who are 18 years and above should vote in elections.
4. Good citizens obey and follow rules.



WORDS

Responsibility	a duty to take care of somebody or something
Citizen	a person who has the right to belong to a particular country
Public property	land, buildings, transport, etc. that are owned by the government and can be used by everyone
Private property	property belonging to a particular person or group
Candidate	a person who stands for election
Polling booth	the place where voters go to vote in an election

EXERCISES



A. Fill in the blanks.

1. A good citizen cares for known people and also for people.
2. Facilities such as roads, buses and parks, which are for everyone, are
3. Heritage like historical buildings and belongs to everyone.
4. We should respect and take care of both and property.
5. It is the duty of Indian citizens of 18 years and above to vote in



B. Good citizenship

Tick sentences that show good citizenship. Put a cross against the ones that show a lack of civic sense.

1. After a picnic, people throw their garbage in a dustbin or carry it home to throw in a dustbin.
2. People in a vehicle spit from the windows.
3. A car drives fast through a puddle of water, splashing dirty water on the nearby pedestrians.
4. A group of students help during their break to see that no one throws garbage on the playground.
5. Some students use school furniture to play cricket in empty classrooms.
6. People in a building are careful not to make any noise after 10 pm so that they do not disturb neighbours.
7. Older children in a park play on swings meant for children of less than 5 years of age.
8. After using a public toilet in a theatre or an airport, people make sure that it is left clean.

C. Match the following.

A	B
1. Citizen	a. a duty to take care of somebody or something
2. Responsibility	b. a person who stands for election
3. Candidate	c. teaches rights and duties of a citizen and the way government works
4. Civics	d. a person who belongs to a country or city

D. Answer the following questions.

1. What do we learn in civics?
2. Who is a good neighbour?
3. Why should we take care of historical buildings and monuments?
4. What is the difference between public and private property?
5. Who are the people who are allowed to vote in India?
6. Write three sentences to explain who a good citizen is.

THINGS TO DO



TP

A. Picture study

Discuss:

- How such children's libraries are useful.
- How we can show civic sense when we use the books and the library.



B. On your own

1. Look around your neighbourhood and school for 2-3 days. Are people breaking rules? Are there any places where people show civic sense? Make a list and share it in class.
2. Find out when the last elections were held in your city and state.

C. In a group

1. List the public and private property around your school in a table like this one:

Public property	Private property
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2. List some rules (a) at home; (b) in school that you should follow so that you are a good citizen.
3. Plan a programme, using posters or short skits, to make other classes aware of how important it is to keep surroundings clean.

WEBLINK

Being A Good Citizen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bwfo9aD5A8&list=PL6tCljHCEBI5-dAZsRxFdPHQy7mi7UdzT> (accessed on 27 July 2017)