

Citizenship

CITIZENSHIP means being a loyal member of a group, community, and/or country.

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. Emphasize to students that an important responsibility of good citizenship is following rules and obeying laws. Explain that many of the laws in the United States were enacted to protect the rights of its citizens. These rights are part of the United States Constitution. The first 10 amendments of the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. They were written to protect the rights of the citizens. Instruct students to copy the following prompt on a sheet of paper. **As a citizen of our country, you have certain rights that are protected by laws. As a citizen of this classroom, the laws or rules of our class should protect you.** Instruct students to write a **Classroom Bill of Rights**. Tell students to create a list of rules designed to protect the rights of the citizens of the classroom. As time allows, ask students to explain why each rule was chosen and how it protects the rights of classmates. Encourage students to follow the Classroom Bill of Rights. **School/Home Link** - Tell students to create a **Family Bill of Rights** with a family member.

LESSON 2

Review the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. Emphasize that a good citizen protects the environment of his or her community and does not litter. Tell the class they will solve a math problem that illustrates good citizenship. Read: **Ms. Foster's class collected aluminum cans for the Citizenship Rally for playground equipment at the community park. In the first week they collected four pounds of cans on Monday, eight pounds of cans on Tuesday, and 12 pounds of cans on Wednesday. On Thursday they collected 10 more pounds of cans and on Friday they collected 12 more pounds. The next week they collected twice as many and the following week they collected 10 pounds less than the first week.** How many pounds of cans have they collected in all? Tell students to solve the problem and explain how they arrived at their answer. **School/Home Link** - Tell students to ask a family member if he or she has considered recycling aluminum cans to help show good citizenship.

LESSON 3

Review the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. Explain that a good citizen votes whenever possible. Read: **Voting is a way for each person to express his or her opinion. By voting, each citizen can help choose which laws he or she thinks are fair and which people he or she wants as leaders. The candidate that gets the most votes is chosen as the leader, so every vote is important. New laws can be accepted or rejected through elections.** With your students, prepare a **Class Citizenship Proclamation** that lists how "citizens" of your class are expected to behave. Brainstorm with your students "laws" that should be included, such as: 1) treat others with respect, 2) don't take someone else's belongings, 3) take turns using class equipment, etc. Include some silly ideas such as: 1) only people with brown-eyes can get an "A", 2) you must bring your pets to class everyday, 3) if you get mad, it's okay to scream at each other. Have the students vote on each law to determine which should or should not be included in your **Class Citizenship Proclamation**. Discuss why or why not. **School/Home Link** - Ask students to talk with a family member about the process of voting and discuss why voting is an important part of being a good citizen.

LESSON 4

Review the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. Emphasize that good citizens are loyal to their country and are proud to serve it. Explain how veterans can be viewed as role models of citizenship. Teach your students that a veteran is a person who has served in the armed forces and discuss character qualities that could have helped them in their service. Ask students to share the names and experiences of friends and family members they know who are veterans. Challenge them to write or call one of these people to say "thank you" for their display of citizenship. **School/Home Link** - Tell students to ask a family member to identify veterans they may know and discuss ways to acknowledge them for showing good citizenship.

LESSON 5

Review the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. Ask students to recite the **Pledge of Allegiance** and to reflect on each word in the **Pledge of Allegiance** to reinforce the quality of good citizenship. Write the following key words on the board: *pledge, allegiance, liberty, justice*. Call on students to define and discuss what the words mean and why the words deserve to be part of the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Share the following fact with the students: **The original pledge was written and used at a public school Columbus Day celebration in 1892 as students gathered around the flag.** Encourage students to learn more about the history of the **Pledge of Allegiance**. **School/Home Link** - Tell the students to discuss with a family member the Pledge of Allegiance and other things relevant to the United States of America.

Louisiana Content Standards and Grade Level Expectations

ELA-2-M6, ELA-4-M2, ELA-4-M4, ELA-4-M5 ELA-4-M7 ELA-7-M2, LA-1-M1, ELA-1-M4, ELA-7-M1, ELA-3-M, C1-A-M7, C1-B-M5