

Citizenship

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

LESSON 1

Read the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. **Good citizens do their jobs, help others, take care of their property and homes, follow rules, and obey laws. Good citizens are loyal and try to make their community a better place.** Tell students to draw a picture of themselves on a sheet of paper. Below the picture, instruct them to write: **I Am A Proud Citizen Of _____** (name of town/city). Tell students to draw clouds, trees, and a home on their picture. As time allows, discuss one responsibility a good citizen would have relating to each object. Examples include: Good citizens keep their homes in good condition, they take care of the air, they do not litter, etc.

School/Home Link - Ask students to share their picture with a family member.

LESSON 2

Review the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. Teach students about services that are available to make their neighborhood or community a better and safer place. Draw five squares on the board. Brainstorm with students to determine what service agencies are available in their community. Examples include: The fire station, the hospital, an ambulance service, library, police station, etc. Write the names on a square and draw a roof to make the square look like a building. Ask students to describe services that are provided at each chosen organization. Examples include: Protect from fire, help people who are sick, respond to emergencies, etc. As time allows, ask students to select one of the community service buildings and draw their own version of it on paper. Have them list services provided by that organization. Encourage them to notice the services available in their town and be grateful for clean, safe, and productive communities. As an extended activity, have students map the location of each community service building in relation to their school.

School/Home Link - Ask students to talk to a family member about the different service agencies in their communities and to learn about what each does to help the community.

LESSON 3

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 that they will solve a math problem that illustrates good citizenship. Read: **The local Boy Scout troop is working on a community service project to keep the community clean. Everyone in the troop is responsible for picking up litter on the school grounds. The boys are excited. On the first day, Bobbie picked up four pieces of trash and Marty picked up three pieces of trash. How much trash did the boys collect the first day?** Tell students to solve the problem and explain how they arrived at their answer.

School/Home Link - Ask students to encourage family members to keep the community clean.

LESSON 4

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 5

Read the definition of **CITIZENSHIP**. Tell students to think about “super hero” characters or story characters who could be considered good citizens because they helped someone in trouble, obeyed the law, or contributed to their community in some way. An example could be: Spiderman or Superman, protecting a community. Invite students to share the reasons for their selection. As time allows, ask students to think of other “good citizen” characters.

School/Home Link - Ask students to talk with a family member about ways of being a good citizen.