

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute 2016 Volume III: Citizenship, Identity, and Democracy

## Citizenship and its Ability to Change Lives

Guide for Curriculum Unit 16.03.05 by Rachel Pierce Leibiger

This curriculum unit focuses on children as citizens, and how they can claim ownership of their citizenship. Overall the unit works its way through the rights that children have as citizens and how they can use them to their advantage. It starts with what it means to them to be citizens, two specific rights that they have, and finally how they will use those rights to better their lives. The two rights that we discuss in this unit are education and voting. Those rights are the focus of this unit because I believe that they are the most important to young children and that they will benefit them the most in the long term. Education will provide the foundation for all of their learning throughout their lives, and voting is something that education prepares them for and will later in life affect their community and potentially the nation. I also believe that having an understanding of how voting actually impacts this country could potentially interest them in being active politically in the future.

(Developed for Enrichment, grade 4; recommended for History, Social Studies, grades 3-6)

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