

CITIZENSHIP

Teacher Resource

WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

Helping my neighbor, community and nation.

BENCHMARKS

- ✓ **HE.3.R.3.2** Identify opportunities to volunteer or serve others in the school or community.
- ✓ **HE.4.R.3.1** Identify opportunities to actively participate as a responsible citizen in the school and local community.
- ✓ **HE.5.R.3.2** Identify ways to participate in decision-making in the school or community.

PURPOSE

- These interactive activities will help your students explore the characteristic of **citizenship** and make good choices that help the school, community and nation. Share the suggested introduction with your students, choose one or more of the activities below, and conclude with the suggested wrap-up. Feel free to modify or revisit activities throughout the week to continue reinforcing **citizenship**.



Suggested Introduction:

“Today, we are going to explore **citizenship** and the importance of making good choices that help the community and nation. **Citizenship** is important because it means being a good member of your community, such as your school, town and nation. It’s about helping others, following rules and taking care of the world around you. When we demonstrate **citizenship**, we help each other feel safe and happy. Being a good citizen makes the world a better place for everyone!”



Activities to Build Citizenship:

1 Community Service Project

Present students with examples of effective community service projects that have benefited their school or society. Have students identify similar current community issues and how citizen groups could address them.

Examples of community service projects include:

- Food drives
- Community clean-ups

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Activities to Build Citizenship (Continued):

2 Congress Role-Play

Build students' background knowledge about the process of lawmaking within a republic. Discuss with students how we elect representatives who propose laws, debate or discuss them, and then vote. If a bill passes in either the national or state legislature (legislative branch), it is forwarded to the president or governor (executive branch), and he or she has the power to sign it into law or issue a veto. Conduct a mock election where you play the role of the chief executive and students vote on a classroom rule. Allow students to voice their opinions in a civil manner. If the rule passes, have students present it to you as the chief executive who signs or vetoes the rule. Afterward, discuss with students the importance of voting in elections and how the results will affect their daily life.

3 Award for Good Classroom Citizenship

Set up a recognition system where each student nominates a peer for "Good Citizen" awards based on behaviors he or she observes, such as:

- Being kind
- Helping others
- Showing leadership
- Making good choices

Discuss how each nominee's actions contributed to the school community and how this behavior displayed good **citizenship**.



Suggested Wrap-Up:

"Today, we have explored the characteristic of **citizenship** and identified ways we can make good choices and actively participate in our school and community. What are ways you can demonstrate **citizenship** this week? Remember, even small actions, like picking up trash or sharing with a friend, can make a big difference. **Citizenship** is about working together so everyone can feel happy and safe. You have the power to make a positive impact every day!"