

# CITIZENSHIP & GENEROSITY

## Teaching Tools:

### Definition:

#### What does "Citizenship" mean?

Citizenship involves being a member of a community. Being a good citizen means that you are a member of and support your community, whether the community is small (school/neighborhood) or large (your country).

Be a good citizen by listening when people talk about their problems, being kind and generous when people need your help, imagining how you might feel in other people's situations, and being grateful to others who care about you.

#### What does "Generosity" mean?

The trait of being willing to help, give, and support others in your school, home, and community. You can be generous through giving something that can be held in your hand or simply by listening and giving the person you time, focus, and attention.

### FAMOUS QUOTES

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

-Margaret Mead

*"We are citizens of the world. The tragedy of our times is that we do not know this"*

-Woodrow Wilson

*"The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day."*

-Gloria Steinem

*"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."*

-John Wesley

## Citizenship Vocabulary

### Synonyms:

- Civic Responsibility
- Generous
- Neighborly

### Antonyms:

- Selfish
- Isolated
- Lawless

## Class Meeting & Discussion Ideas: Activities and/or Lesson Ideas:

- Do you think you are a good citizen? Why? Why not?
- Do you know of people in your community who are good citizens or show good citizenship?
- How did the "Fill a Bucket with Food" project we conducted last month relate to the character traits of the month Citizenship and Generosity? What are some other projects that our class or school may take part in that relate to these same ideas?
- Why is it important for citizens to voice their opinions and be part of decision making?
- How can you help with things in your community to show good citizenship?
- In what way might people show a lack of citizenship?
- What does generosity mean to you and how do you show it?
- What are some things you have done in your life to show
- Why is generosity important in our school and town?
- How does generosity relate to Bucketfilling?

### Books and Stories about Citizenship & Generosity

- ❖ [Mam Panya's Pancakes](#) *By: Chamberlin, Mary*
- ❖ [Marley's Treasure](#) *By: Yerrid, Gable*
- ❖ [Reach Out and Give](#) *By: Meiners, Cheri*
- ❖ [The Giving Tree](#) *By Silverstein, Shel (R, L)*
- ❖ [We Live Here Too!: Kids talk about good Citizenship](#) *By: Loewen, Nancy*
- ❖ [Being A Good Citizen](#) *By: Vigliano, Adrian*
- ❖ [Being a Good Citizen: A book about citizenship](#) *By: Small, Mary*
- ❖ [City Green](#) *By: Disalvo-Ryan, Dyanne*

- Mr. Resh Has Book (R)
- School Library Has Book (L)

## Activities and/or Lesson Ideas:

- Students develop a list of acts that a good citizen would perform.
- Students work in groups to develop a list of things they can do at school, at home, and in the community to be good citizens and show generosity.
- Students create and carry-out some type of community outreach project to help groups and families in the area.
  - Possible Groups:
    - Hospitals, Nursing Homes,
- Students develop a list of things that good citizens do in their community.
- Students develop a list of survey questions to use in asking an adult about citizenship and generosity.
- Students nominate and interview someone in the community whom they admire as a good citizen.

## 7 Ways To Be A Good Citizen

**C**are about your community, state, or province, and county. Obey laws and rules.

**I**mprove something in your home or neighborhood.

**T**ake the time to learn about how your government works.

**I**nvolve yourself by becoming a leader at school or at your place of worship.

**Z**ero in on something that needs fixing and work with others to do the job.

**E**ncourage your parents and other adults you know to vote.

**N**ever forget to show respect for people, animals, plants, and property.

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## Lesson Ideas

### Discussing and Defining “Citizenship”

**Activity Type:** List Making

**Resources:** Pencil and Paper

- Discuss the meaning of citizenship with the class. Include in your discussion the rights and responsibilities of a good citizen.
  - In a whole-class discussion about citizenship, students will develop a definition of a good citizen by sharing personal stories about a time when they exhibited good citizenship (ask 3 to 5 students to share stories). Examples might be the following:
    - I was friendly to a new student.
    - I helped clean up the beach with my family.
    - I donated my used toys and clothes to a local shelter.
    - I wear my soccer safety gear and follow all rules and listen to my coach.
  - Working individually, in pairs, or in small groups, students will develop a list of acts that a good citizen would perform (5 to 8 ideas).
  - Post the students’ lists so that they can be referred to throughout the month.
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### Developing Classroom Rules as Classroom Citizens

**Activity Type:** Discussion, Critical Thinking, and Writing

**Resources:** Pencil and Paper

- In a whole-class discussion, ask students to describe what would happen if there were no rules or laws at home, at school, or in the community.
  - Working in pairs, in small groups, or as a whole class, students will develop a new set of classroom rules. They may use current rules to guide them, but encourage the students to be more specific and detailed, based on recent playground, classroom, and/or school situations that they have noticed.
  - Discuss the importance of rules and ask students to create a new set of consequences if the rules are broken
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### Surveying Adults About Good Citizenship

**Activity Type:** Discussion, Survey

**Resources:** Paper, Pencil/Writing Supplies

- ❖ As a whole class, students review and discuss examples of good citizenship (for example, helping others, protecting the environment, following rules).
- ❖ Ask the students to develop a list of questions for use in a survey about citizenship. Some suggestions are “What makes a good citizen?” “Who do you know that you consider to be a good citizen, and why do you think so?” “Do you think you are a good citizen? Why?” “Could you do better? How?” “How can young people show good citizenship?” “Do you volunteer? If so, doing what?”
- ❖ Continue the class discussion, developing a full list of survey questions. The teacher will then provide a copy of the questions for each student.
- ❖ Students will ask an adult they know to fill out this survey. Direct the students to ask the adult to review his or her responses with the student.
- ❖ After the students’ surveys have been completed, ask for student volunteers to share their survey findings.
- ❖ Review your discussion on good citizenship and add any insights revealed by the surveys.
- ❖ If this activity is done at home, the student might survey a neighbor, a community worker, a church member, or a family member.

### A Fund-Raiser to Benefit a Local Charity

**Activity Type:** Discussion, Service-Learning Project

**Resources:** Donations

- Create and initiate a bake sale, craft fair, or other activity as a fund-raiser. Can be a grade level project.
- As preparation for the fund-raiser, students will discuss the needs of local charities and the responsibility of citizens to help as they are able to do so. Students will participate in the selection of the recipient charity.
- A fund-raiser such as this can be done either before or after school, or possibly on a weekend. For a sales fund-raiser, tables would be set up, staff by parents and/or adult volunteers, and bake goods or crafts donated by families would be sold to passerby and/or those dropping students off or picking students up from school.
- Following the fund-raiser, hold a whole-class discussion with your students about their roles as citizens in raising money to help local charities.
- If this activity is done at home, other fund-raising activities that can be considered are holding a garage sale, selling lemonade, cutting lawns, and dog walking. Any money raised can be donated to a charity chosen by the family as a whole.

## Describing a Good Citizen

**Activity Type:** List Making

**Resources:** Colored pencils, crayons, Quilt Square Template

- Define the concept of “being a good citizen” with the students. Start with the basic idea that citizenship means being a member of a group that has responsibility for the good of the community.
- In small groups, students will develop a list of things that good citizens do in their community. Here are some suggestions to help them get started:
  - Help carry in the grocery bags from the car.
  - Return dropped money when you see it fall.
  - Help a neighbor wash their car without expecting anything in return.
- Each student will then illustrate one of the list items as a square for a “citizenship quilt.” You may want students to use the Quilt Square Template for this activity.
- Ask groups to share their squares. Then combine them to form a citizenship quilt.
- Ask students to write in their journals, responding to the question “What are the qualities of a good citizen?”

**Classroom Poster to Display: Citizenship**

**Pick your Classroom Bucketfiller on:**

**Friday, November 30th**

**Submit his/her name on the Google Doc:**

**[Bucketfiller/Character Ed. Student of the Month](#)**

# Quilt Square Template

Write about and illustrate the character trait below. Cut out the square, punch holes in the corners, and tie to the other squares to form a character quilt.

Character trait

## Character Scenario · Citizenship

Cut out the six cards below and use the scenarios to role-play/discuss how the character trait could be used to resolve the situation. Discuss the consequences of demonstrating the character trait and not demonstrating it. Relate each scenario to actual events that you may have experienced or to other character traits.

### Citizenship

Consider the people who live in your home, next door, upstairs, downstairs, or across the street. Think about those who might need a helping hand, and make a list of ways you could be of service to them. How best can you assist them?

### Citizenship

Your parents and those of your friends want you to come up with a service-learning project. You want to be involved as the leader. Talk with your friends about ideas for a service-learning project. Come up with ideas of your own, as well. Think about what your community needs.

### Citizenship

As a citizen, you have noticed issues of concern within your community. It's time to write to your city and/or state leaders. What are some of the issues you'd address in regard to making your city and/or state a better place? Come up with realistic ideas, as well as possible solutions.

### Citizenship

There is an empty lot next to your school or in your neighborhood. Many of the citizens have talked about wanting to beautify the space. What are some ways in which you, your neighborhood, and/or your school could accomplish this?

### Citizenship

Being a good citizen means much more than just doing the right thing, helping around the house and in the neighborhood, but also reaching out to people who have less than you, are in need of help, or are in need of a friend. Think about people, social services, and animals in your community. Which might you and your friends be interested in helping, and how might you go about getting information about how to do so?

### Citizenship

Your friends and you are having trouble deciding on a field trip for the end of the school year. Several of you have made a list of possibilities, and you are down to two favorites. How might you go about explaining the pros and cons of each trip, including the costs and benefits, and deciding on one of them?