

Digital Citizenship

Lesson Title: Passport to the World Wide Web

Grade Level: 3-5



Project and Purpose:

Students analyze what it means to be a good citizen of their communities and online.

Essential Question:

What does it mean to be a good citizen in our community, school and nation – and what does it mean to be a good citizen within our digital, online communities?

Materials:

- Good Citizen Worksheet (teacher support/alternate worksheet)
- Good Citizen Worksheet (blank)
- We the People Worksheet for Digital World Preamble
- Craft materials for creating a Flag and Passport for the Digital World

Note:

This lesson extends over several class periods.

Procedure:

Introduction:

1. Begin a discussion of the concept of citizenship and reviewing basic definitions. Explain that citizenship is what we do to fulfill our role as a citizen. Use the following questions to continue the discussion:
 - Why is it important to people to become citizens of the United States?
 - What do people have to do to become citizens?
 - Why is that process in place?
 - What rules do we need to observe as citizens of the United States? As citizens of our school? As citizens of our classroom?
 - Why are those rules important?

2. Having establishing the concept of becoming a citizen, continue the discussion by asking students what it means to be a good citizen. Explore the following statements and ask students to share thoughts and experiences that demonstrate the ways they have been or could be good citizens:
 - A good citizen has compassion for other people and helps them when possible.
 - A good citizen volunteers his or her time.
 - A responsible citizen takes care of the environment and the people around him/her.
 - A good citizen is respectful of others' beliefs and feelings.
 - A good citizen obeys the law and stays out of trouble.
 - A good citizen takes the initiative to be responsible about learning about the history of his/her country, learning about the present and past leaders, and studying how s/he can better the society, land, and people.

Direct Instruction (I do):

1. Explain that in the next few sessions, students will explore what it means to be a citizen of their country and compare and contrast it to being a citizen of the digital world.
2. Talk about how today's young people have not really known life without online access. Share a personal story of how you or your parents communicated with far-away friends and relatives during childhood or how you found information before the advent of online access. This might include letters, postcards, long-distance telephone calls, going to the library to do research in books and encyclopedias, etc.

Guided Instruction (We Do) :

1. Continue the discussion with the following prompts:
 - How has the Internet expanded our world?
 - How do you use the Internet to find information or answers to help you with your schoolwork?
 - Do any of you correspond online with friends or relatives who live far away? Explain.
 - Do any of you correspond online with friends or relatives even those they live close by? Why?
2. In today's world, we physically live as citizens of our communities (neighborhoods, our school) but also as citizens of the World Wide Web – the Internet. Explore with students the ways in which the Internet expands our world with the following questions:
 - What are the things we can find online? (*Examples include information, research, news, opinions, photos, games, and friends*).
 - What do we expect of others and of resources when we go online? (*Possible answers: We need them to be truthful. We look for positive experiences: we don't want our feelings to be hurt.*)
3. Much like the list we created of what it means to be a good U.S. citizen, let's explore what it means to be a good digital citizen. Using the Good Citizen Worksheet, brainstorm a list of traits and activities that describe good citizens to complete the left hand column. (A teacher support OR alternate worksheet is provided with suggested traits.)

Independent Practice (You do):

1. In small groups or as individuals, have students complete the additional columns with examples of what good citizens could do to demonstrate that trait. Example:

A Good Citizen...	In The Real World We...	In the Online World We...
Is Honest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell the truth• Never cheat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only post what we know to be true• Verify and give credit to sources

2. Have students compare and contrast their responses.
3. Divide students into three groups.
 - The first group will create a flag for this digital world in which we participate with “dual citizenship.”
 - The second group will create a passport for individuals of our digital world.
 - The third group will create a Constitutional preamble for our digital world beginning with the words We The People of the Digital Community...

Conclusion and Additional Activities:

Have groups share the completed charts, the flag design, the passport, and Constitutional preamble. Ask students to consider ways of sharing this information with other classes, and discuss the importance of thinking of oneself as a digital citizen of the world.

As an extended activity, photograph the flag, digitally place it on a document with information created by the passport group, and have each student complete his or her passport for the digital community. Display the Constitution preamble in the classroom next to a poster or graphic of the U.S. Constitution.

Dual Citizenship

Good Citizen Worksheet

A Good Citizen...	In The Real World We...	In the Online World We...
Is Honest		
Is Respectful		
Is Courageous		
Is Thoughtful		
Is Knowledgeable		
Follows the Rules		
Volunteers		
Is Compassionate		
Is Responsible		
Takes Initiative		

Dual Citizenship Good Citizen Worksheet

A Good Citizen...	In The Real World We...	In the Online World We...

Dual Citizenship Good Citizen Worksheet

We the People...

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence [sic], promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

We the People of the Digital Community...

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

[illegible]