

# Character and Life Skills: **Citizenship**

## Lesson Title: **Community of Citizens**

### Grade Level: **3-5**



#### Project and Purpose

Students will create posters and signs to teach other students in the school about good citizenship.

#### Essential Question

How can we display good citizenship in our home, school, and city?

## Materials

- Pens, pencils
- Construction paper, cardstock, posters
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Smart board, white board or chart paper
- Slips of paper or index cards
- **Community of Citizens** worksheets

## Procedure

**Note:** Before beginning this lesson, copy the chart from the **Community of Citizens** worksheet on the board or chart paper.

## Introduction

1. Begin this lesson by starting a class discussion about citizenship using the following questions as a guide:
  - What is a citizen?
  - What is citizenship?
  - How would you characterize a good citizen?
  - What does it mean to demonstrate good citizenship?

**Note:** Students should conclude that a good citizen is compassionate, courageous, honest, respectful, responsible, etc., and that demonstrating good citizenship means taking an active role in improving one's community and contributing to the well-being of a community's members.

## Direct Instruction (I do)

1. Introduce the chart you have drawn on the board or chart paper.
2. Explain to students that they are members of several different communities-their families, their school, and their city or town.
3. Provide an example to put in each circle about ways we can demonstrate good citizenship in each community.

Example:

- In your family, you can demonstrate good citizenship by... (helping with chores, such as helping to prepare dinner, clearing the dinner table, or putting away things you have used that day).
- In your school community, you can demonstrate good citizenship by... (maintaining a clean and orderly classroom, practicing appropriate hall behavior, or following rules in each area of the school).
- In your city or town, you can demonstrate good citizenship by... (obeying laws, such as keeping city property free from litter, following traffic rules, or cleaning up after pets).

## Guided Exploration (We do)

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four students, and distribute one copy of the **Community of Citizens** worksheet to each group.
2. Instruct your students to work with their group members to identify at least three ways in which they can demonstrate good citizenship in each community (family, school, and city or town).
3. Direct your students to record their ideas in the appropriate areas on their **Community of Citizens** worksheet.
4. Monitor group discussions as they discuss and fill out their charts. If groups seem stuck, help them brainstorm.
5. After groups have completed their Community of Citizens worksheet, ask several students to share their ideas with the class. Record their responses in the appropriate areas on the board or chart paper.

## Independent Practice (You do)

1. Explain to students that they will each choose one idea from the chart and make a poster or flier explaining to other students what it means to display good citizenship. These posters and fliers will be displayed around the school so students in other classes can learn from them.
2. Encourage students to get creative with their posters or fliers. They might use a catchy phrase, draw pictures, or add colors to make their poster or flier stand out.
3. Allow the students to work on their posters or fliers for the remainder of class.

## Conclusion

Give students a slip of paper or an index card. Have students write their definition of citizenship on one side and one idea that was discussed in class today to put into action in their city or town on the other side. This serves as their exit ticket.

# Vocabulary

## characterize (v.)

*Definition:* to describe one’s character, qualities, traits, etc., in a particular way

*Context:* I would characterize Mark as a friendly person because he says hello to everyone he meets.

## citizenship (n.)

*Definition:* being responsible and helpful in one’s community; the quality of an individual’s response to membership in a community

*Context:* Adults demonstrate good citizenship by voting in elections.

## community (n.)

*Definition:* the area in which a group of people lives, works, attends school, etc.

*Context:* Taylor serves his community each month by cleaning up litter along the stream behind his house.

## contribute (v.)

*Definition:* to give money, help, ideas, etc., to improve a situation

*Context:* The teacher asked each student to contribute one can of food to help feed the needy in their community.

## Teacher Notes

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# Character and Life Skills: **Citizenship**

## Activity: **Community of Citizens**

### Grade Level: **3-5**

#### Group Members

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#### Directions

You are all citizens of several different communities — your family, your school and your city or town. Work with your group members to identify ways in which you can demonstrate good citizenship in each community featured in the chart below. Record at least three ideas for each community.

