

Tennessee Secretary of State

Civics Lesson Plans

Citizenship

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Grade Level: K-2nd grade

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For additional lesson plans, visit sos.tn.gov/civics/lessonplans.



Introduction:

This is the first lesson in a civics unit for students grades K-2. This lesson introduces the concept of citizenship and explores the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.

Guiding Questions:

- What makes a good citizen?
- What rights and responsibilities does a citizen have?

Learning Objectives: In the course of the lesson, students will...

- Develop an understanding of the concept of citizenship.
- Recognize the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.
- Name several responsibilities of a citizen.
- Recognize how to be a good citizen in their communities.

Curriculum Standards:

K.22 (Social Studies) Demonstrate good citizenship and identify characteristics of citizens of the United States as described in the Constitution.

1.33 (Social Studies) Sort rules and responsibilities that citizens follow that are specific to their state compared to national rules and responsibilities, including wearing a seat belt,

wearing a bicycle helmet, texting while driving, child restraints, voting, obtaining a driver's license at a particular age, and wearing a motorcycle helmet.

2.29 (Social Studies) Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States.

Materials Needed:

- Copies of text (see attachment)
- Projector or Smartboard
- Copies of graphic organizer (see attachment)

Background:

Citizenship means being a member of and supporting one's community and country. A United States citizen has certain freedoms which are declared in the U.S. Bill of Rights. In addition to these privileges, a citizen has a responsibility to be informed, follow laws, and uphold democratic principles such as civic responsibility.

[The Citizen's Almanac – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#)

Lesson Activities:

1. Review the idea of "community" with students. A community is a group of people in the same area. Have students name the communities they live in (family, school, town/city, state, country, etc.).
2. Explain that all community members have certain rights and responsibilities. Read aloud the first paragraph of text (see attachment) to students. You may wish to project it for students to follow along or have older students read individually.
(Text is a 420 Lexile level. This is at the bottom of the 2nd/3rd grade stretch band, so it should be accessible to 2nd grade students.)
3. Discuss rights and responsibilities. Talk about rights and responsibilities/jobs they have at home and in the classroom.
4. Explain to students that citizens of a state and a country also have rights and responsibilities. Have students brainstorm rights/responsibilities (voting, paying taxes, helping others, following laws, etc.).
5. Read aloud the second part of the text. Lead discussion about what makes a good citizen. Have students list ways they can be a good citizen in their families, classroom, and community.

6. Ask each student to choose one right and one responsibility of a citizen. On the graphic organizer, students will complete the sentence and draw a picture showing that right/responsibility. (Adapt as needed based on your students level/grade.)

Assessment:

Kindergarten: Use graphic organizer as assessment.

1st/2nd grade: Have students write a sentence (or paragraph, if able) explaining what a citizen is and how he/she can be a good citizen.

Extension Options & Resources:

Book: *We are Citizens* by Laine Falk

With a Lexile level of 310, this Scholastic non-fiction reader is appropriate for primary grade students. Students learn what it means to be a citizen at home, school, or play. There are suggestions on how they can do their part as citizens with their families, classmates, and communities. (ISBN: 978-0531214480)

Activity: Community Service Project

After discussing ways students can be good citizens in their classrooms/school, plan a community service project. It can be as simple as cleaning trash off the playground or more involved such as a canned food drive.

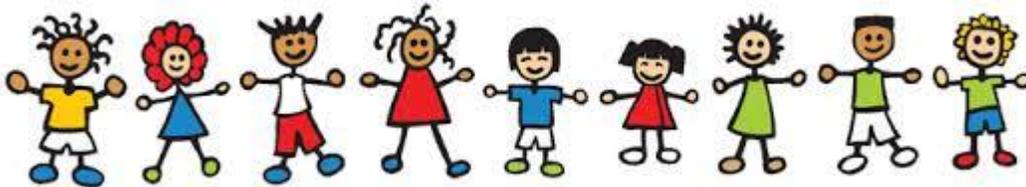
Rights and Responsibilities

Citizens have rights and responsibilities. A right is a freedom that every person in a community has. You have the right to live in a safe place and to go to school. A responsibility is something that is your job to do. Citizens have the responsibility to follow laws and not litter. Voting is both a right and a responsibility!

Good citizens follow community laws and rules. There are many ways you can be a good citizen.

- Be honest.
- Share and take turns.
- Treat other people fairly.
- Use good manners.

Can you think of other ways to be a good citizen in your community?



Name _____

I have the right to

I have the responsibility to
