

Topic: Political rights and responsibilities

Lesson: What makes a good citizen?	KS or Year Group: KS3
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resource 1 - Statement list2. Resource 2 – Example ‘Good conduct code’	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students consider what makes a good citizen.• Students write a code for good citizens.• Students reflect upon whether they themselves are good citizens.

National Curriculum

Key Concepts: 1.2a

Key Processes: 2.1a, 2.2b, 2.3a, 2.3c

Curriculum Opportunities: 4b

Lesson

In this lesson, students are asked to consider what makes a good citizen in an everyday, practical sense. The main activity of this lesson requires the student to select statements from a list that they think describe a good citizen, then use this selection to create a good citizen’s code of conduct. In conclusion, students will be asked to reflect upon whether they consider themselves good citizens.

Starter

- The teacher should conduct a Q&A session in which they ask students to say what they think makes a good citizen. If they struggle, the teacher can prompt them with examples, such as “would a good citizen throw their litter on the street?”.
- Ask the students to name a public figure that they think is a good citizen. They should be able to justify their suggestions with a rationale.

Main activity

Activity 1:

- Distribute copies of **Resource 1 – Statements list**. You could even bolster this list with ideas that are particularly relevant to your school or area.
- Ask the students to circle ten statements that they think describe a good citizen.

What makes a good citizen?

- This activity can be done as individuals, pairs or small groups.

Activity 2:

- After making their selection, the students should individually write a 'Good citizen code'. Their selection should form the basis of their code, but they should be given creative license about where to take it from here. Show them the different ways they might frame their points in **Resource 2 – Example 'Good conduct code'** if they need further direction.
- Emphasise that the code can be done in different styles, thus allowing students to approach it from their own comfort zones. For example, it could be done as an illustrated list but it could also be done as a PowerPoint presentation, a poster or a mini-movie.

Plenary

Students should take a few moments to consider their own conduct in light of the statements selected and the code they have written.

- Are they a good citizen?
- How could they become a better citizen?

Aim high

Students can consider how a good citizen might differ around the world. For example, would a code for good citizens be different in Darfur, India or America? They could go on to write a code for different geographical areas, or even religious or cultural sections of society.

Assessment

Homework - is there a difference between a good citizen and a useful citizen? Students should write a piece to argue their response to this question.

Check the web

<http://www.technologystudent.com/pse1/citiz1.htm>

An example of a good citizen code with a poster activity.

http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/207/207305_will_you_sign_the_citizen_pledge.html

A good citizen code in use, which might help with context setting and background.

Summary of key learning

- Students understand what makes a good citizen.
- Students consider their own actions/lifestyle and whether they are a good citizen.

What makes a good citizen?

Resource 1 – Statements list

A good citizen...

- respects themselves & others
- is loyal
- is friendly
- uses time effectively
- is someone you can trust
- reports crime
- confronts anti-social behaviour
- knows their neighbours
- uses independent, local shops
- recycles
- knows their rights
- upholds & protects people's human rights
- doesn't get in debt
- is not in a gang
- doesn't skip school / work
- knows what is going on around the world
- drives safely
- protests about things they think are wrong
- uses energy efficient appliances
- donates to charity
- gives time to help a charity.

What makes a good citizen?

Resource 2 – Example ‘Good citizens code’

Idea 1

I will:

- put my litter in the bin
- be friendly to my neighbours
- take time to enjoy local facilities

Idea 2

If I was an ideal citizen I would put my litter in the bin to keep the area tidy and pest - free. I would be friendly to my neighbours to create a better community. I would try to use my free time to enjoy local facilities such as parks and libraries, as they need public support.

Idea 3

A good citizen would:

- pick up litter & put their own in the bin
- be friendly to their neighbours
- take time to enjoy local facilities

Idea 4

If they saw litter on the floor the ideal citizen would pick it up, they would be friendly to their neighbours and use local facilities.

Idea 5

Problem = litter

Ideal citizen solution = pick it up and put it in the bin

Problem = local library is closing

Ideal citizen solution = use local facilities and support them