

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 3–4

Rights and Responsibilities

Two sides of the same coin

What are rights?

A RIGHT is something you should have just because you're a person. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), agreed in 1989 by almost every country in the world, lists 54 rights every child has. Rights come with RESPONSIBILITIES — things you should do to help others have their rights too.

Rights and responsibilities

Right	Responsibility
I have a right to be safe.	I should not hurt or scare others, and I should speak up if I see someone unsafe.
I have a right to an education.	I should let others learn — not interrupt or distract them.
I have a right to be heard.	I should listen when others speak, even if I disagree.
I have a right to food, water and shelter.	I should not waste, and I should share what I can.
I have a right to my own beliefs.	I should respect that others have different beliefs from mine.
I have a right to play and rest.	I should respect others' need for the same.

Discussion

1. Why do you think rights come with responsibilities?



2. Pick one right. Describe what life would be like without it.
3. Are there rights NOT on this list that you think should be?
4. What's the difference between something you WANT and a RIGHT?

