

## SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 1–4

# What Makes a Good Citizen?

Rights, responsibilities and community

## What's a citizen?

A **CITIZEN** is someone who belongs to a country or community. You're a citizen of your country. You're also a citizen of your school, your town, and even your classroom. Being a **GOOD** citizen means doing your bit to make those communities better for everyone.

## Rights and responsibilities

Your rights (what you should <b>HAVE</b> )	Your responsibilities (what you should <b>DO</b> )
The right to be safe	Help keep others safe too
The right to learn	Try your best at school
The right to be listened to	Listen when others speak
The right to be treated fairly	Treat others fairly
The right to your own opinions	Respect that others have different opinions
The right to a clean environment	Look after your environment

## The big idea

Rights and responsibilities go together. You can't expect to **BE** listened to if you don't **LISTEN**. You can't expect to **BE** treated kindly if you aren't **KIND**. A community works because everyone takes some responsibility — small ones add up.

## Six ways to be a good citizen



<p><b>1. Be kind</b></p> <p>Notice when others might need help. Say hello. Include people. The world needs more kindness, not less.</p>	<p><b>2. Follow the rules</b></p> <p>Most rules exist for a reason — to keep people safe or fair. Following them makes life easier for everyone.</p>
<p><b>3. Look after shared spaces</b></p> <p>Don't drop litter. Tidy up after yourself. Don't damage things. The classroom, park or town belongs to everyone.</p>	<p><b>4. Listen and learn</b></p> <p>Other people have different experiences. Listening to them — really listening — helps you understand the world better.</p>
<p><b>5. Speak up when something's wrong</b></p> <p>If you see bullying, unfairness or someone in need, tell a trusted adult. Silence helps the wrong things continue.</p>	<p><b>6. Vote when you can</b></p> <p>Adults vote in elections to choose leaders. Children vote in school councils. Voting is how communities make decisions together.</p>

### My citizenship pledge

Write three things you will do this term to be a better citizen of your classroom and school. Make them specific — not 'be nicer' but 'help [name] when they look upset' or 'pick up at least 3 bits of litter every week'.

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### Discussion questions

1. What's the difference between a RULE and a LAW?
2. Why might rules be different in different places (your home, school, the park)?
3. Can you think of a time when someone was a really good citizen — at home, at school, or in your town?
4. Are there any rules you think should change? How would you go about changing them?

