

## Character Counts

Lesson 7: Pillar - Citizenship

Character Counts Curriculum 2019

(Reviewed Fall 21)

South Dakota Youth Foundation

### Lesson Plan

### Lesson Goals

**Lesson Goal(s): Citizenship includes everyone playing their part and contributing; everyone has a responsibility to be a good citizen.**

*Key Understanding: As a citizen we can have an impact on the world around us. A good citizen asks what they can do for their community and makes it better with their involvement.*

### Learners will...

- ✓ explain citizenship
- ✓ Describe actions that demonstrate citizenship
- ✓ Identify tasks we can do to demonstrate positive citizenship.

### Curriculum Introduction

- ☞ If possible, wear Purple
- ☞ Introduce yourself to the group
- ☞ Stand where everyone can see you and hear what you say

- ◆ Welcome students to Character Counts
- ◆ Provide an overview of the program

### Opening Activity – 5 to 10 Minutes

#### ☞ Make it Rain (Practice ahead of time!)

##### → Instructions

- Everyone sits in a circle, shoulder to shoulder.
- No talking is allowed.
- The leader starts the exercise and each person joins in when they hear the sound the person to their left is making.
- The leader starts the exercise by rubbing their palms together.
- This continues in the circle until it comes back to the leader who then changes the sound (snap fingers, clap hands, slap thighs, stomp feet, and then in reverse order).

→ *The sensations created are like the sounds of a rainstorm.*

### Relating Game / Activity Experience to Character (Anchor) 5 minutes

#### ☞ Lead discussion:

##### → Questions:

- What did we just do?
- How
- What if only one of us had made the sound?
- Everyone had to play a part – what if none of you would have participated?
  - Could we have made it rain?

##### → Relate to Communities

Our communities are like that – everyone plays a part and we can make our community a better place by all participating – doing our part  
Anyone know what we might call this?

**Citizenship** – we all work to make our community – home, school, town, state, world a better place.

## Creating a Vision – (Add) (Content Delivery)

### ☞ Share objectives:

*Learners will...*

- ✓ explain citizenship
- ✓ Describe actions that demonstrate citizenship
- ✓ Identify tasks we can do to demonstrate positive citizenship.

### **Definition of citizenship** (display on poster or interactive board)

‘the position or status of being a citizen of a particular country’.

- What country, state, city, community are you a citizen of?
- **the way you act as a responsible member of the community**
- **community includes- home, school, town, state, country**

➔ Citizenship is the 6<sup>th</sup> Pillar of Character

☞ **Lead discussion and activity:** We made it ‘rain’ by each doing our part – by being a ‘responsible’ member of the community. What does that mean? How do you ‘practice’ citizenship?

➔ Display the following on either a poster or interactive board:

*(To make this more interactive, you might ask students to take turn reading one of the items below and offer an example.)*

# How to Be A Good Citizen

- + Do Your share to make your school, your community and the world a better place!
- + Take responsibility for what goes on around you.
- + Participate in Community Service/Volunteer.
- + Help take care of the environment.
- + Be a good neighbor.
- + Treat other people with respect and dignity.
- + Follow the rules of your family, your school, your community and country.
- + Ask -What can you do for your family, school, or community.
- + Practice patriotism

→What if people were NOT good citizens. What would it be like?

Examples,

- no one would follow rules,
- driving would be less safe because speed limits aren't enforced,
- trash and garbage would pile up, etc.
- Generate other ideas

**Summarize:** Everyone needs to participate – to make the world better. You can make a difference

### Application and Reflection (Apply)

**Actions of good citizens activity** – What can we do?

→ Distribute Skittles or M & Ms to each student –

(Use a large bag and give each student a scoop or give small individual bags, one to each student. (The number of candies given may be adjusted based on the number of students and time available.)

→ Instruct students

→Based on the color of Skittle/M & M you have, brainstorm what you can do to be a good citizen. (Display the following color list on a poster or interactive board)

**Example:** For each red candy – What can I do in my classroom or school (Examples are provided for reference.)

Red candy: **School – how can we practice citizenship in the classroom and school**

- Be respectful to teachers and administrators
- Follow the rules
- Cooperate with others
- Volunteer to help
- Take care of equipment and books
- Be responsible for actions
- Don't litter, pick up trash
- Be a good neighbor and classmate
- Help those in need
- Participate in school events
- Be a good sport whether participating or attending

Yellow candy – **Home** –

- Do our chores
- Help parents
- Be a good neighbor
- Help those in need
- Recycle or reuse – think about the environment
- Use a re-useable water bottle

Green candy- **Community** – **could be your town, or neighborhood or state**

- Participate in community events
- Take care of public places – parks, etc
- Help those in need – give to the food pantry,
- Have pride in your community – help with clean up days or beautification projects
- Volunteer to help – community service projects,
- Be informed

Orange candy - **Country**

- Take pride in your country
- Participate when saying the Pledge to the Flag
- Respect those in military service
- Be informed
- Vote – when old enough

Blue Candy – Wildcard – name any way you can show you are a good citizen

☞ **Summarize** –You can make a difference by your everyday actions.

**Summarize Key Concepts**

- ◆Citizenship is the way you act as a responsible, involved member of the community
- ◆Good citizens do more than just show up, they contribute in a positive way wherever they go.
- ◆A good citizen asks: what can I do?

## Assessment and Goal Setting (10 Minutes) (Away and Goal-Setting)

(If possible, video the following activity and submit with your portfolio.)

☞ **What will YOU do?**

### Instructions: Give me five

Divide students into pairs

→ Instruct:

- Students should stand facing each other.
- One student puts up their right hand as if making a pledge
- The other student puts up their left hand so that their hand mirrors and is touching the other student's hand

Students each share five easy things they can do or will try to do to put citizenship in action – practice being a good citizen – one for each finger and thumb

- Examples:

I will ...

Recycle – paper or plastic or aluminum cans.

Pick up litter ...

Donate to a food bank

Volunteer at \_\_\_\_\_

Follow directions in the classroom

### Summarize

Share quote:

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

— John F. Kennedy

## Bridge to next lesson or Summarize Character Counts Pillars/Program

☞ If this is the last lesson for Character Counts:

Summarize Character Counts and Six Pillars

Solicit responses about each pillar from students

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Citizenship

You may wish to conclude with "Parable of the Master Carpenter" (Teaching Aid)