

Unit 1: What is Citizenship?

Active Citizenship



Lesson 1: What does citizenship mean?

This lesson relates to the idea of what citizenship is. It requires pupils to explore the concept of citizenship and to consider what it means to be a responsible citizen.

Planning

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| Prior Learning | <p>Pupils should have gained prior knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• diversity, inclusion and equality;• human rights and the rights of the child;• democracy;• ways to participate in society; and• individual and social responsibility. |
| Learning Outcomes | <p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• discuss the meaning of citizenship; and• explore the relationship between the main components of citizenship, rights, responsibilities, democracy and participation and identity. |
| Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Focus | <p>Pupils will have opportunities to develop the following:</p> <p>Being Creative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn from and value other people's ideas• Make new connections between ideas <p>Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classify and group different elements of citizenship. |
| Attitudes and Dispositions | <p>Pupils will be encouraged to develop the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Openness to new ideas. |
| Resources | <p>Animation: <i>What Is Citizenship?</i></p> <p>Unit 1: Lesson 1 Resource – Citizenship connections cards</p> <p>Flip chart paper</p> <p>Coloured markers</p> |

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Suggested teaching and learning strategies

Launch

Lead a class discussion, using prompt questions and effective questioning techniques:

1. **When did the idea of citizenship begin?**
2. **What is citizenship?**
3. **What are the main components of citizenship?**
4. **Why is citizenship important in today's democracies?**

You may now wish to show the animation *What Is Citizenship?*

Possible answers and discussion points:

1. *Citizenship can be traced back to the ancient Greece city states (500 BC).*
2. *Citizenship is about the relationship between the individual and the state.*
3. *Citizenship has four main components: human rights, responsibilities, participation and identity.*
4. *It provides a person with an identity; so that people can work with the government rather than against them; by becoming citizens of a country people are agreeing to follow the laws of the country.*

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Activities

Activity 1: Each one teach one

- Cut out the citizenship connections cards from the **Resource**, using the blank cards to add your own topics if you wish.
- Give each pupil one or two of the cards.
- Allow a few minutes for them to think about their card statements.
- Ask them to walk around the room and exchange ideas with at least five other pupils (one at a time).
- Encourage each pupil to exchange their ideas about the statement on the card and discuss how their statements link to citizenship.
- Remind them that they are not expected to know all the answers and that this is a discovery task to see what they come up with.
- Encourage discussion throughout the activity.

Activity 2: Mind maps

- The purpose of this task is to help the pupils identify how interrelated the four different elements of citizenship are: participation, identity, human rights and responsibility.
- Ask the pupils to form groups of four or five.
- Give each group some flip chart paper and a black marker.
- Ask each group to produce a mind map to show the links between their card statements. Encourage them to write a few comments to summarise citizenship connections.
- Invite the pupils to group their cards under headings, or give them the headings *Rights, Responsibilities, Participation and Identity*.

Activity 3: Class discussion

- Ask the pupils to place their mind maps on a wall.
- Encourage the groups to look at each other's mind maps.
- Ask them to add further ideas about how the cards link to the other mind maps using a coloured marker.
- Encourage a class discussion and use effective questioning to explore your pupils' understanding of citizenship. For example, ask '*Has this task changed your views on what citizenship includes?*'

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Debrief

Discuss the following:

- 1. In one sentence, can you sum up what citizenship is?**
- 2. How easy was it to make citizenship connections?**
- 3. Does being a citizen of a country take effort?**

You may wish to ask pupils to write an answer to the first question before discussing it.

Possible answers and discussion points:

- 1. Citizenship is the relationship between a person and the state.*
- 2. (It is quite possible that pupils will only have been able to make one or two links. Encourage whole class participation to give a sense of how all four elements link.)*
- 3. It does take effort to be a citizen. However, perhaps the effort that someone puts in can reap rewards.*

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Unit 1: Lesson 1 Resource

Citizenship connections cards

Human Rights

UDHR

UNCRC

The Right to Life

**Right to Participate in Government and in Free
Elections**

Freedom of Expression

Right to a Nationality



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Unit 1: Lesson 1 Resource Citizenship connections cards

Freedom of Belief and Religion



Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association

Voting

Direct Action

Volunteering

Lobbying

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Unit 1: Lesson 1 Resource

Citizenship connections cards

Peaceful Protest

Social Equality

Diversity

Inclusion

Social Responsibility

Individual Responsibility



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Contributing to the Community

Treating Others with Respect

Thinking about How Your Actions Affect Others

Making the 'Right' Decisions

Being Lawful

Multiple Identities



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Unit 1: Lesson 1 Resource Citizenship connections cards

A large rectangular area with a dashed purple border, intended for creating citizenship connections cards. A small purple scissors icon is located at the top right corner of this area.