

Unit 1: What is Citizenship?

Active Citizenship



Lesson 3: Being an active citizen

This lesson requires pupils to reflect on their local communities and on how they could become an active citizen.

Planning

Prior Learning	<p>Pupils should have gained prior knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• democracy and the rule of law;• citizenship;• rights and responsibilities;• personal identity; and• participation.
Learning Outcomes	<p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• discuss the meaning of citizenship;• understand what the term active citizenship means.
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Focus	<p>Pupils will have opportunities to develop the following:</p> <p>Working with Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect the views and opinions of others and reach agreement using negotiation and compromise• Listen actively and share ideas and opinions <p>Self-Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage emotions and use appropriate language when exploring the issues <p>Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make and justify decisions• Offer ideas and give reasons to support them• Justify a personal viewpoint and offer a range of reasons to back it up.
Attitudes and Dispositions	<p>Pupils will be encouraged to develop the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Openness to new ideas• Community Spirit

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Resources

Animation: What Is Citizenship?

Unit 1: Lesson 3 Resource A – Gingerbread man template

Unit 1: Lesson 3 Resource B – Active citizens

Pre-prepared flip chart pages

BBC Bitesize video: [Democratic Participation](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z2kxhv4/video)

www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z2kxhv4/video

British Council video: [What are Active Citizens?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiZNO_Lca8k)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiZNO_Lca8k

Suggested teaching and learning strategies

Launch

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

1. **What is citizenship?**
2. **What makes us good citizens?**
3. **As citizens, can you think of any examples of things that we are entitled to?**

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

Possible answers and discussion points:

1. *Citizenship is about the relationship between the individual and the state.*
2. *Being a good citizen involves being kind to each other, following the laws of society and participating in society, for example through voting.*
3. *Education, health care, shelter, etc.*

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Activities

Activity 1: Community map

- Ask the pupils to form groups of five or six.
- Give each group a flip chart page and ask them to nominate a scribe. Ask the pupils to draw a map of the local community (of the school or where they live). Remind them to include as many features as they can, for example local shops, businesses and other schools.
- Ask them each to mark on the map any locations that are significant to them, for example their bus stop, house and favourite place to eat.
- As a group, the pupils should come up with one thing they would improve about the local area that would benefit everyone who uses it.
- Ask each group to nominate one person to share the group's response to the task.

Activity 2: Self-portrait

- Give the pupils copies of the gingerbread man template in **Resource A**.
- Ask them to fill in the template with the following things about themselves:
 - Body: Their hobbies and/or favourite things to do
 - Head: Their ambitions and/or dreams
 - Arms: Their interests and/or talents.
- The pupils could write their responses, draw images to represent their responses or create a collage using images cut from magazines to complete the template.

Activity 3: Active citizens

- Prepare a space on a wall or door with a small banner saying 'Active Citizens'. (You could use **Resource B** for this.)
- Show your pupils the following videos:
 - [Democratic Participation](http://www.bbc.com/bitesize) (available at www.bbc.com/bitesize); and
 - [What are Active Citizens?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) (British Council video available on www.youtube.com).
- Allow the pupils to discuss the key elements of the videos as a class.
- Encourage your pupils to think about their own gifts and talents that they could share with their community. Ask: 'What could you do to become an active citizen?'
- Invite them to write each idea on a Post-it note, then place the note underneath the banner.
- Ask a willing pupil to explain their active citizen suggestion to the rest of the class.
- As a home learning task, you could ask your pupils to identify a paragraph explaining how they could use their gift or talents in the community.

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Possible answers and discussion points:

- Join a local youth group.
- Help an elderly person.
- Get involved in a local church group.
- Get involved in pupil council

Debrief

Discuss the following:

- 1. Do you know any active citizens?**
- 2. How could becoming an active citizen benefit your community?**
- 3. Apart from sharing gifts and talents, are there any other ways to become an active citizen?**

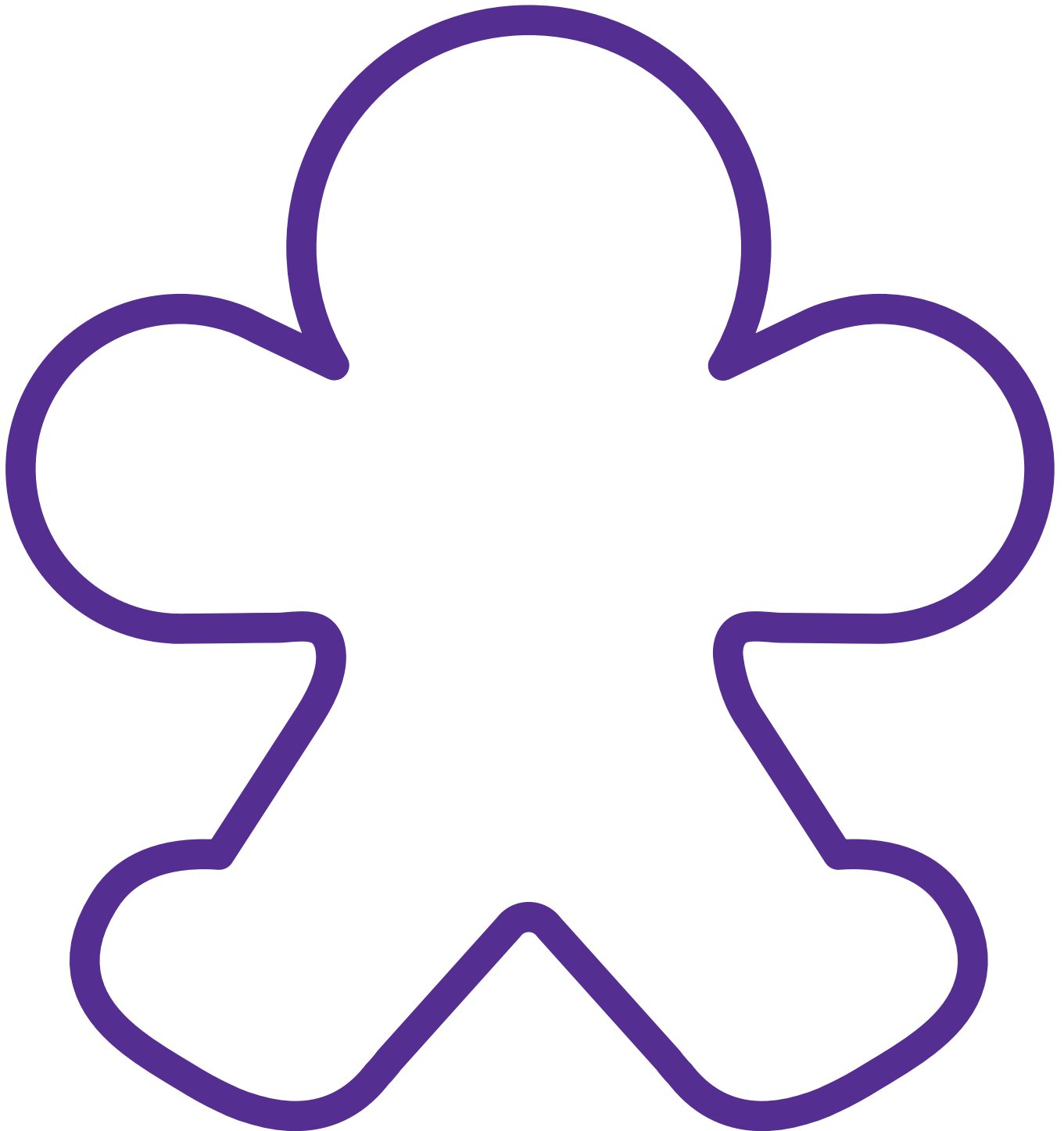
Possible answers and discussion points:

1. Parents; pupil council leaders; youth workers; community workers
2. Getting involved in a community group, you would be volunteering your time for the benefit of others. You would learn new skills and meet new people. You could make a positive difference to your area.
3. Voting; being aware of issues that affect other people; taking part in consultations, to make your voice heard

Unit 1: What is Citizenship?



Unit 1: Lesson 3 Resource A Gingerbread man template



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Unit 1: Lesson 3 Resource B Active citizens

