

Lesson Plan

What Is a Citizen?

Book: *Citizenship in Sports*

Series: Sports Build Character

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice consulting a dictionary to build vocabulary and build understanding of what it means to be a citizen of a community.

Supplies

- *Citizenship in Sports* book
- “What Is a Citizen?” worksheet (attached)
- Merriam-Webster online dictionary
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Read through the *Citizenship in Sports* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide the students into groups of three or four. Print one “What Is a Citizen?” worksheet for each group.

Activity

Divide the students into their groups, giving each group a “What Is a Citizen?” worksheet. Students in each group should work together to answer the questions on the worksheet, consulting the book’s glossary and the Merriam-Webster online dictionary as needed.

When each group has completed the worksheet, come back together for a large-group discussion. Choose a volunteer to read the “Let’s Discuss” question on page 6 (“What communities are you a citizen of?”). Make a list on the whiteboard of communities that people in the class are part of.

Next, ask students to share some of the ways people can help their communities, as described by the *Citizenship in Sports* book. Write these ideas on the whiteboard as well. Then ask students to think of other ways they can help in their communities. Add these ideas to the whiteboard as well.

Optional: Choose one of the ideas from the list, and do it as a class.

Evaluation

Collect each group's worksheet at the end of the activity. Using the attached answer key, give students one point for each definition and one point for each way of helping their community, for a total of up to 14 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' language standards, grade 3 (L 3.4) and the National Council for Social Studies Standard 10.

What Is a Citizen?

1. Look up the word *citizens* in the glossary of *Citizenship in Sports* and write the definition in the space below.
2. Look up the word *citizen* in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. Scroll to the “Kids” section and write that definition in the space below.
3. According to page 6 of *Citizenship in Sports*, “Being a citizen is like being a teammate. A sports team works together to win. And citizens work together to help their community.” Use the book’s glossary to look up the word *community* and write the definition in the space below.
4. Look up the word *community* in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. Scroll to the “English Language Learners” section and write that definition in the space below.
5. List five ways described in *Citizenship in Sports* that people can help their communities.

6. To better understand these ways of helping, look up the following words in the book's glossary and write their definitions in the blanks beside them:

charity: _____

donating: _____

needy: _____

renovate: _____

volunteer: _____

What Is a Citizen? ANSWER KEY

1. Look up the word *citizens* in the glossary of *Citizenship in Sports* and write the definition in the space below.

citizens: People who live in a certain city or country.

2. Look up the word *citizen* in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. Scroll to the “Kids” section and write that definition in the space below.

citizen: A person who lives in a particular place

3. According to page 6 of *Citizenship in Sports*, “Being a citizen is like being a teammate. A sports team works together to win. And citizens work together to help their community.” Use the book’s glossary to look up the word *community* and write the definition in the space below.

community: A group of people who live in the same place or share the same interests.

4. Look up the word *community* in the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. Scroll to the “English Language Learners” section and write that definition in the space below.

community: A group of people who live in the same area (such as a city, town, or neighborhood); a group of people who have the same interests, religion, race, etc.

5. List five ways described in *Citizenship in Sports* that people can help their communities.

Answers will vary, but possible answers include the following:

- help at a food bank (p. 7)
- donate money (p. 7)
- work with a charity (p. 7)
- raise awareness (p. 7)
- raise money or work to renovate (p. 11)
- donate or work to help people who are needy (p. 13)
- volunteer (p. 24)
- donate food or clothing (p. 24)
- care for the environment (p. 25)
- pick up litter (p. 26)

6. To better understand these ways of helping, look up the following words in the book’s glossary and write their definitions in the blanks beside them:

charity: An organization set up to help people in need.

donating: Giving a gift, often to people in need.

needy: Requiring help.

renovate: To restore something that is old or broken.

volunteer: To help out without being paid.