

Making the World a Better Place for All Living Things

Lesson 4 - Citizenship

Time: 30 minutes

REQUIRED MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

5 Community Pet Problems Cards, White Board

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:

The students will be able to define what being a good citizen is, how they can help animals in their community, and how they can help the planet through citizenship.

ENGAGE (3 MINUTES):

Introducing the topic by relating new information to past experiences with active participation.

Student questioning:

- If you've ever tried to make your classroom a better place, stand up.
- If you've ever tried to make your school a better place, stand up.
- If you've ever tried to make your community a better place, stand up.
- If you've ever tried to make California a better place, stand up.
- If you've ever tried to make the world a better place, stand up.

Introduce word of the day: Citizenship

- Have students repeat after you in a high voice, low voice, quickly, slowly, and in a whisper voice.
- Clap out syllables (4)
- Spell out (student led) and write on the board
- Write definition on the board: Citizenship: Making the world a better place for all living things

ACTIVATE (10 MINUTES):

Brainstorm whole group how to make each of the following a better place for all living things. Lead discussion through questioning towards people, animals, and the planet. Write 2-3 suggestions on the board if time allows.

Examples:

- Classroom – be nice, listen to teacher, take care of classroom pet, help classmates
- School – hold door opens, hands to yourself, keep it clean
- Town – recycle, donate food to shelter, pick up trash
- California – vote, adopt pets from shelters, ride public transportation
- World – know where clothes come from, be kind to animals, keep habitats alive

REFLECT (15 MINUTES):

Introduce the idea of making the world a better place for our pets. Show the 5 community pet problem cards to the students' whole group. With each one ask the students what a good citizen would do.



Examples:**Dog Poop**

What – citizen would scoop it up

Why- germs and diseases accumulate on the poop and can make other dogs sick, and also make their way into our drinking water

Cats Outside

What – citizen provides a collar, microchip, spay/neuters them, etc.

Why- outside cats live substantially shorter than indoor cats, and reproduce excessively outside

Litters

What – citizen would provide vaccines, vet care, spay/neuter to decrease overpopulation

Why- with 5-7 million animals in shelters last year (APSCA.org) we have too many, introduce spaying and neutering if you haven't already discussed it, as well as the medical (cancer) and behavioral aspects of having litters/not being fixed

Walking

What – citizen would use a leash and ask before greeting others' dogs

Why- bored and anxious dogs can be destructive, without proper exercise, dogs are unhappy. Discuss how to exercise other animals as well.

Stray

What – citizen that sees a stray/loose animal would tell an adult, call local shelter, help animal with posters, etc.

Why- make sure the animal returns to their home or that the animal has a safe place to stay, reduced lifespan for animals on the street.

CLOSURE (2 MINUTES):

Ask students to think for 30 seconds about something they can do to be a good citizen today, and then share out with their neighbor.

MODIFICATIONS:

If there is no animal for the presentation, teachers can contact local Animal Welfare organizations to see if they would be willing to bring in an animal for students to meet. Stuffed, plush animals will also work well to showcase pet care & interaction.

Writing prompt: A Day in the Life of a Dog or Cat: Imagine you are a dog or cat. Write a journal with at least 10 entries about things that happened in one day. Include 3 instances of humans being good citizens to you.

Extension activity; read *How Full is Your Bucket* by Tom Rath & Mary Reckmeyer. Ask how students can fill each others' buckets as well as the animals in their community.

