

Protecting the Environment

Character Skills

- Citizenship

SEL Skills

- Responsible Decision-Making
- Social Awareness

Academic Skills

- Curiosity and Passion
- Effective Problem-Solving
- Diligence

There is so much power in the actions of one person. This activity is designed for students to understand the impact of being an engaged citizen of their community. Citizenship is more than voting and obeying laws. It involves individuals taking responsibility for their duty to protect the environment. This activity gives students time to discuss solutions to problems they see in their communities around the environment.

Discussion Questions

- What do you think it takes to change the world?
- Where are you a citizen? In the world, the country, the state, the community, the school, the family?
- What does it mean to be a good citizen in those places?
- What are some of the things that need to be changed in the places you are a citizen?
- Brainstorm ideas that you, as an individual, could do to impact the environment?

Instructions

1. Spend a week or two prior to the lesson collecting recyclable items. Encourage students to bring items from home. Food or drink containers should be washed thoroughly and dried.
2. Watch ["How to Change the World \(a work in progress\) | Kid President"](#)
3. Ask students to discuss with a partner the discussion questions listed above.
4. Bring students back together to discuss their responses. Ask students to expand on their ideas around the impact and power of an individual in change. Challenge them to see their role in things they feel they cannot control.
5. Discuss that one of the best ways to create change within your own community is to start at home. Recycling and reusing is an easy task to do at home to impact all the places you are a citizen (home, school, community, state, country, and world). Recycling and reusing reduces the waste we produce, the amount we contribute to the landfill and the energy we consume.
6. Make a large Pillar shape on purple (preferably) butcher paper. Give students the recycled items and glue. Ask them to make a pillar collage out of recycled material. Hang up the Pillar in your classroom as a reminder of the impact one citizen can have.

Definitions

Citizenship

- Do your share to make your home, school, and community better
- Cooperate
- Stay informed; vote
- Be a good neighbor
- Make choices that protect the safety and rights of others
- Protect the environment

Responsible Decision-Making

Make decisions based on rationality, ethics, and effectiveness

Social Awareness

Assess the feelings of others and be sensitive to the feelings and needs of others

Curiosity and Passion

Enthusiastic to understand more about themselves, others, and the world around them

Effective Problem-Solving

Make rational, ethical, and effective decisions to find the best solutions to problems

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