



GRADE 3+

## Citizenship in the United States | Lesson Plan

How can we be great citizens?

Students learn about the roles, responsibilities, privileges, and benefits of being a citizen of the United States. They'll join Uncle Sam as he quizzes kid contestants about the topic and complete a fun follow-along worksheet.

### Learning Objectives:

- Understand the concept of citizenship.
- Recognize the origins of modern citizenship from ancient Greek and Roman empires.
- Differentiate between a republic and a monarchy.
- Explore the rights and privileges of U.S. citizens, such as freedom of speech, religion, a fair trial, voting rights, running for office, and access to government aid and benefits.
- Recognize the responsibilities of U.S. citizens, including obeying laws, paying taxes, and participating in juries through jury duty.
- Appreciate the significance, honor, and privileges associated with being a citizen of the United States.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Citizenship:** Being a citizen means being a part of a country. As a citizen, you have certain rights and responsibilities towards your country.
- **Republic:** A republic is a government where the people choose representatives to make decisions. It's different from a monarchy, where one ruler has all the power.
- **Unalienable rights:** Unalienable rights are very important rights that all people have and cannot be taken away. They include things like the right to life (being alive), liberty (being free), and the pursuit of happiness (doing things that make you happy).
- **Constitution:** A constitution is like a rulebook for a country. It has important laws and rules that explain how the country should be run, and it also protects the rights and responsibilities of its citizens.

**Educational Standards:** Civics, American Values, U.S. History, Western Civilization

## What You'll Need

- Video: [Street Smarts: Citizenship in the U.S.](#)



Scan to watch video.

- Worksheet: Street Smarts: Citizenship in the U.S. ([Download PDF](#))

## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm Up: What do you know about citizenship? (10 mins.)

1. Ask: *What is citizenship? What nation are you a citizen of? What do you know about being a great citizen?*
2. Display a copy of Street Smarts: Citizenship in the U.S. Worksheet (side with blanks) on a screen in the classroom.
3. Have a student read each statement aloud and attempt to fill in the blanks as a class. Invite students to share out (or do this part independently).

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. State: *Let's play a fun game and see if we got it right.*
2. Watch the video.
3. Pause after each question and allow students to try to answer.
4. Play the video to reveal if they were correct or incorrect.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow students 10 minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as formative assessment or discuss in class.

## Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15 min.)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.