



Being a Responsible Citizen

Suggested Grade Level: First grade

Materials

- The book, *The Trash in Chigger County*, by Amanda Robertson
- Paper for each child
- Pencils
- Whiteboard and markers

GLEs

- Social Studies-Principles of Constitutional Democracy-B. List the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Math-Data and Probability 1A-Pose questions and gather data about themselves and their surroundings.
- Communication Arts-Develop and apply effective listening skills and strategies 1A-Listen for enjoyment, for information, and for simple directions to follow.
- Communication Arts-Develop and apply effective speaking skills and strategies for various audiences and purposes 2A-Speak clearly when sharing ideas and asking questions in small and large groups.
- Science-Scientific Inquiry-1A-Post questions about objects, materials, organisms, and events.
- Science-Scientific Inquiry-1D-Communicate simple procedures and results of investigations and explanations through: oral presentations, drawings and maps, data tables, graphs, and writings.

Measurable Objective

After listening to *The Trash in Chigger County*, the students will be able to list five ways in which they can be a responsible citizen and help their community.



Anticipatory Set

1. Read *The Trash in Chigger County* with the children.
2. Discuss with the children what it means to be a good citizen and what the characters did that were not characteristic of a responsible citizen.
3. Have students take turns in the circle to tell ways they can be a good citizen.
4. Write the characteristics the children give on the board as they share.
5. Describe how everyone has a responsibility and their choices can affect everyone around them.

Instructional Input

1. *Prior Knowledge:* In order to complete this task, students should have the prerequisite skills of writing and reading.
2. *Materials:* Listed above
3. *Procedure:*
 - The teacher will give examples of how people can be responsible citizens.
 - Have the children discuss what it means to be a responsible citizen.
 - Give each child paper to write ways they can be responsible citizens.

Modeling

Model what it means to be a responsible citizen.

Check for Understanding

- After modeling examples of how to be a responsible citizen, ask the students questions like, “What other things can you think of?”
- Also ask questions to see if students can decide if an action is responsible or not, such as, “Would leaving trash on the ground be a way to be a responsible citizen?”



- While students are working with their partner, circle the room to make sure that students understand the instructions.

Guided Practice

- See anticipatory set.

Independent Practice

- Have each student complete a writing piece listing five ways they can be a responsible citizen.

Closure

- After completing their writing, ask students to go around the room and share what their ideas were.
- Discuss how the students' ideas would affect others.

Evaluation

- Evaluate the completed writing to see if the students were able to list at least five ways they can be a responsible citizen.

Lesson Plan compiled by Hilary Collier, an Earth Team Volunteer and Early Childhood Education student at Missouri State University, Springfield, MO.

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