Social Studies Lesson Plan- SS.4.C.2.3
Explain the importance of public service, voting, and volunteerism

1. Title: State and local government- 4th Grade

2. Overview - Big Ideas:

  Enduring Understandings
  • Recognize the rights of citizens
  • Understand citizen’s responsibilities to their community
  • Understand the difference between legal and voluntary responsibilities
  • Comprehend the relationship between rights, duties and responsibilities of a citizen

  Essential Questions – (What provocative questions will you use to foster inquiry, understanding and transfer of learning?)
  • What are the rights of a citizen?
  • What are the duties and responsibilities associated with the rights of citizens?
  • What are the responsibilities of a citizen to their community?
  • Why is it important for there to be a division of legal and voluntary responsibilities of citizens?

3. Lesson Objectives:

  Standards - (Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Social Studies)

  Fourth Grade NGSSS-SS Benchmarks
  • SS.4.C.2.3 Explain the importance of public service, voting, and volunteerism

  Tested Seventh Grade NGSSS-SS Benchmarks Relevant to this Lesson
• SS.7.C.2.3 Experience the responsibilities of citizens at the local, state, or federal levels.

• SS.7.C.2.13 Examine multiple perspectives on public and current issues.

4. **Key Vocabulary:**

   Alien, naturalized citizen, democracy, rights, duties, responsibilities, tolerance, taxes, draft, jury duty, voting, volunteer

5. **Evidence of Student Understanding (Assessment) in this Lesson:**

   *What key knowledge and skills will students acquire as a result of this lesson?*

   After students complete this lesson, an understanding of the rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens should be apparent. They will also be able to understand the importance of public service, voting and volunteerism.

   *What will students be able to do as a result of such knowledge and skills?*

   As a result of acquiring said knowledge and skills, students will be able to complete the tables (attached) associated with this lesson which display the rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens. In addition, the students will be able explain the importance of public service, voting and volunteerism.

   Additionally, students will be able to correctly answer the questions that are part of the formal assessment included in this lesson.

   *Both formative and summative assessments are included*

6. **Materials Needed:**

   Attachment A: Reading associated with lesson
   Attachment B: Chart listing the rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens
   Attachment C: Chart comparing the legal and voluntary responsibilities of citizens
   Attachment D: Action plan for solving a local community problem
   Attachment E: Post Test Quiz on citizens rights, duties and responsibilities.
7. **Steps to Deliver the Lesson:**

_A detailed, step by step description of how to deliver the lesson and achieve the lesson plan objectives._

a. **Lesson Opening:** Have students create a list of rights of citizens. Make a web using student lists. Categorize the ideas by legal or voluntary. Keep the web as it will be revisited.

b. **Reading:** Use effective reading strategies appropriate for your class to read with students attachment A, “Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens”. Discuss and check for understanding as students read through the passage.

c. **Discuss vocabulary associated with lesson**

d. Have students work individually or as a group to complete attachment B, table on the rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens, attachment C, legal versus voluntary responsibilities of citizens and attachment D, an action plan for volunteering.

e. Have students take the post-quiz associated with the lesson (attachment F). Review quiz with students and check for understanding as needed. Re-teach concepts not mastered.

8. **Specific Activities: (From Guided to Independent)**

_Activities designed to facilitate the gradual release of teacher responsibility, from teacher-led to independent._

a. After students have completed attachments B, C and D, have them write summaries that explain the information presented in the graphic organizer.

b. Pair students who are struggling readers and/or English Language Learners, with another student for assistance.

c. Be sure to circulate the room to monitor the students’ abilities in writing the paragraphs. Model writing with the students demonstrating difficulties.

d. Have students share their writing with the class.

9. **Differentiated Instruction Strategies:**

_How to accommodate a variety of student learning needs, remediation strategies as well as enrichment strategies._
a. While students are completing the graphic organizers, work individually with students who are having difficulty with reading.

b. While students are completing the paragraph summary, work on an individual basis with students who are having difficulty.

10. **Technology Integration:**

Activities incorporating technology; e.g., address lesson content through online resources.

a. Have students research why certain freedoms are important and necessary in a democracy.

b. Have students research people they consider to be responsible citizens. Write a paragraph explaining their choice.

c. Have students research and write to explain why they think it is important that citizens have both rights and responsibilities. Have them cite different examples from other countries.

11. **Lesson Closure:**

Methods to draw ideas together, review concepts, etc.

a. After completing the post-quiz and going over with students, ask students the following questions to wrap up the lesson:

- What are the rights of a citizen?
- What are the duties and responsibilities associated with the rights of citizens?
- What are the responsibilities of a citizen to their community?
- Why is it important for there to be a division of legal and voluntary responsibilities of citizens?

b. For home learning: Make an information booklet for a new citizen that outlines the rights, duties and the responsibilities of being a citizen.
All citizens of the state of Florida have rights given to them by the state and federal constitutions. With these rights, also come responsibilities that citizens are expected to carry out in order to help their communities. Citizens have rights that include: freedom of speech, freedom of press, rights to gather in peaceful groups and to move freely from state to state. They also have a right to a speedy and public trial with fair representation. With these rights comes the expectation that people will act as good citizens. Citizens have duties as well as responsibilities that come with their citizenship.

A citizen’s duty is something that they must do. Duties of a citizen include the following: obeying laws, paying taxes, defending their nation, serving on a jury in court, and attending school. Performing these duties help us to have safe and successful communities. Some of our duties are established by the laws of the state. If we fail to follow them, we are subject to legal punishment such as fines or imprisonment. Citizen’s duties help secure the rights given to each of us.

A citizen’s responsibilities are things we should do. These are not required, but are expected on a voluntary basis. Some of these responsibilities are: to be informed about what is going on with the different levels of government, to vote, to respect the rights of others and to volunteer. When a responsible citizen sees a problem, they take action. Citizens in different communities have different responsibilities depending upon where they live. There are many actions that a citizen can take in order to be a good citizen in their community.

It is important for citizens to know that they have rights and responsibilities. It is also important to understand that with your rights come certain expectations. Some of these are duties which are enforced by laws and government. Others are responsibilities which are not enforced, but expected in order to make our country a safe and successful place to live. All three of these are important in order to create responsible citizen.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights</th>
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<tr>
<td>Duties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsibilities</td>
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Two Column Notes-Responsibilities of Citizens

**Making comparisons:** Use the chart below to compare the legal and the voluntary responsibilities of citizens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsibilities of Citizens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
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<td>Voluntary</td>
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</table>

**Draw a conclusion:** Using the chart above, choose what you think is more important: citizens’ legal responsibilities or citizens’ voluntary responsibilities. Explain why.
### Developing an Action Plan for Being a Responsible Citizen

When a responsible citizen identifies a problem, they should take action. Responsible citizens keep themselves informed about their country, state and community. Being informed helps them make good decisions and allows them to identify ways they can help in their communities. Based on this, develop an action plan that will allow you to help solve a problem in your community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify a problem</th>
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<th>Think of ways to solve the problem</th>
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<tr>
<th>What can you do to help?</th>
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<tr>
<th>How can you go about implementing your idea?</th>
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Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of Citizens-Post Quiz

Low Complexity Items (3 items):

1. Which of the following are the rights of citizens?
   a. Volunteering, voting and free speech
   b. Freedom of speech, religion and assembly
   c. Voting, freedom of speech and right to bear arms
   d. Democracy, traveling from state to state and obeying laws

2. As citizens we are free to exercise our rights. What are we expected to do in return?
   a. volunteer and assemble on a regular basis
   b. own arms and be informed
   c. have free speech and go to school
   d. volunteer and vote

3. Which of the following happens when a citizen chooses not to volunteer?
   a. The citizen is breaking a law
   b. The citizen is not acting like a responsible citizen
   c. The citizen can go to jail
   d. The citizen is carrying out a duty of being responsible

Moderate Complexity Items (3 items):

4. One of the duties of a citizen is to pay taxes. Which one of the following is not a reason why we pay taxes?
   a. To pay for the protection of our country
   b. To help protect the people and environment in our country
   c. To pay for government activities and events
   d. To pay for local government resources such as police and firefighters.
5. Which of the categories below represents legal responsibilities of a citizen?

a. Volunteering, being informed and obeying laws  
b. Serving on a jury, being informed and voting  
c. Defending the nation, serving on a jury and being informed  
d. Following the law, paying taxes and going to school

6. Which of the following would cite evidence that a citizen is carrying out the duties of a good citizen?

a. A citizen voting in an election he knows nothing about and simply voting for the political party with which he is affiliated  
b. A citizen who sees that there is a problem in their community and ignores it, hoping it will go away  
c. A citizen who reads the information on all of the candidates and issues before making a decision on how he/she will vote  
d. A citizen who chooses not to vote because one vote will not make a difference in the election

High Complexity Items (4 items: 2 of which are Document Based Questions- DBQ):

7. Which of the following statements supports the position that there is a need for the relationship between citizen’s rights, duties and responsibilities?

a. In a democracy where you are given rights, there is no need for citizens to have responsibilities because the government has no need for citizen participation.  
b. In a community, it is the responsibility of the community to provide for the citizen but the citizen does not have to provide for the community  
c. It is the combination of rights, responsibilities and duties that make our country safe and successful  
d. In a democracy, it is important to have only legal responsibilities for citizens because obeying the law is a citizen’s only duty.
8. Which of the following statements explains the most important responsibility of a citizen with proper support for the statement?

a. To enjoy rights to the fullest, one should be prepared to go forth with any idea without being prepared to respect others’ rights

b. Following laws is the most important duty of a citizen because laws are in place to protect us and keep order.

c. In a diverse population like ours, it is important to respect each other because respect for each other is the legal base of a solid democracy

d. Voting for your political party is the most important duty because it assures that you will keep people in office who share your same ideas

DBQ: Read the following excerpt from the Florida constitution related to the municipal government to answer question 9

Article 7, SECTION 9.
SECTION 2. Municipalities.—
SECTION 9. Local taxes.—
(a) Counties, school districts, and municipalities shall, and special districts may, be authorized by law to levy ad valorem taxes and may be authorized by general law to levy other taxes, for their respective purposes, except ad valorem taxes on intangible personal property and taxes prohibited by this constitution.

9. Based on this statement, which of the following is correct?

a. Paying taxes is a right of a responsible citizen

b. Paying taxes is a responsibility of a responsible citizen

c. Paying taxes is prohibited by the constitution

d. Paying taxes is on a volunteer because it is not authorized by general law
Yet after America was attacked, it was as if our entire country looked into a mirror and saw our better selves. We were reminded that we are citizens, with obligations to each other, to our country, and to history. We began to think less of the goods we can accumulate, and more about the good we can do.

For too long our culture has said, "If it feels good, do it." Now America is embracing a new ethic and a new creed: "Let's roll." (Applause.) In the sacrifice of soldiers, the fierce brotherhood of firefighters, and the bravery and generosity of ordinary citizens, we have glimpsed what a new culture of responsibility could look like. We want to be a nation that serves goals larger than self. We've been offered a unique opportunity, and we must not let this moment pass.

My call tonight is for every American to commit at least two years -- 4,000 hours over the rest of your lifetime -- to the service of your neighbors and your nation.

10. Based on the address why it is that volunteerism is important?

a. Donating time, effort and money makes your community and country a better place to live

b. Donating time, effort and money allows you to become famous

c. Only large companies rich citizens have the ability to donate and volunteer

d. In a time of need citizens should embrace the ethic and do what “feels good”
Answer Key:

1. b
2. d
3. b
4. c
5. b
6. c
7. c
8. b
9. b
10. a
Civic Integration
Lesson Plan Quiz Blueprint
NGSSS-SS Main Benchmark:
SS.4.C.2.3 Explain the importance of public service, voting, and volunteerism.
Title of Lesson: Citizens rights, duties and responsibilities
Grade Level: 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question #</th>
<th>Benchmark Grade Level 4</th>
<th>Benchmark 7th Grade Tested</th>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Complexity Level</th>
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<tr>
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