

Environmental Citizen Activity



Learning Objectives: To solidify what it means to be an Environmental Citizen. An Environmental Citizen is a proactive member of the community who understands the importance of being a steward of the planet's limited natural resources and is committed to going beyond private actions by using civic actions to sustain them. (Reference [Attributes of an Environmental Citizen](#))

Added Information: In the TIPS Cards and Educator Guide, we suggest creating student work **portfolios**. This allows students to keep work samples throughout the process which can be revisited while reflecting after their project is finished. This activity is a great way to begin the creation of student portfolios.

Scaffolds: Try this activity as an entire class, led by you or a student leader instead of breaking up into smaller groups. Students often say their Environmental Citizen needs a friend to help them– so this option allows the space to draw additional friends and helpers!

Materials Needed:

- One large sheet of paper per small group
- Markers
- Wall space or portfolio space to keep the drawings once completed

1] Divide your class into small groups of 3-6 students.

2] Give each group one large sheet of paper and different colors of markers.

3] Each group should begin with a head and torso drawn on their paper.

4] Ask the large group – “What is a citizen?” Discuss responses. “Now imagine you want to be an Environmental Citizen – what would you need? (Physical, mental, emotional attributes– real or whimsical) Working in your small groups, use your paper to create an Environmental Citizen. Give them the physical and mental attributes you think would be necessary. Be sure to label each part. [For example, everybody needs a mouth. But how would an Environmental Citizen use their mouth?](#)

5] Give groups at least 10-15 minutes to work. You may need to move between groups, offering encouragement, helping them expand on their ideas, and reminding them to add explanation labels that will help them make a presentation about their Citizen.

6] Give each group a chance to do an oral presentation on their Environmental Citizen.

7] Post the Citizens around the wall. Groups can continue to add attributes later, if desired. Some typical attributes (it is amazing what youth will think of – no two Citizens will be alike!):

- A heart to care
- A brain to analyze community issues
- Hands to reach out to others/to hold a shovel/ to write letters
- A pocket for seed packets/ to hold a notebook
- Soft shoes to tread lightly/sturdy shoes for walking through the community
- A nose to smell pollution/to smell trouble/to smell the flower

