

Attributes of an Environmental Citizen



Knowledge	Skills	Orientations (Character Traits)
<p>Environmental Awareness: Awareness of current local environmental issues, needs, and resources</p>	<p>Research: Ability to conduct a thorough and balanced investigation on a local environmental and/or community issue</p>	<p>Civic Responsibility: Sense of personal responsibility for, and commitment to, the well-being of the environment and the community</p>
<p>Historical Awareness: Understanding how past ecological events, political decisions, and the economy have affected the environment</p>	<p>Media Literacy: Ability to assess various sources of information for credibility and bias</p>	<p>Self-Efficacy: Belief in one's ability to make positive changes in the environment and community</p>
<p>Policy & Practice Understanding: Understanding that environmental issues are influenced by policies and community practices</p>	<p>Communication: Ability to defend a position on an environmental issue both orally and in writing</p>	<p>Community Connectedness: Practice building respectful relationships with all members of the community</p>
<p>Stakeholder Knowledge: Awareness of decision-makers who can influence public and private policies and community practices associated with environmental issues</p>	<p>Collaboration: Ability to work cooperatively with peers and adults toward a common end</p>	<p>Academic Achievement: Personal sense of achievement, accountability, and accomplishment in and out of school</p>
<p>Civic Ability: Understanding of the roles that citizens can play in shaping policies or community practices to help the environment</p>	<p>Advocacy: Ability to develop and execute a plan for sustainable improvements to the environment or community</p>	<p>Social Respect & Empathy: Willingness to respectfully consider diverse points of view</p>
<p>Inclusivity: Understanding the importance of integrating diverse experiences and perspectives into all aspects of learning</p>	<p>Problem-Solving: Ability to make wise decisions and plans to solve environmental and community issues using sound research</p> <p>Reflection: Ability to think critically about experiences and to solidify big picture take-aways and behavior changes</p>	<p>Program Affinity: Sense of connectedness to movements of students involved in Earth Force and other such environmental programs</p>

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](#))

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, similar to a hangman.



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 flowers