

Lesson ideas

Explore the key concepts of **active citizenship** and **responsibility**. What should be the balance between individual, social, government responsibility in different social spheres, e.g. welfare, health, planning, crime, finance, education, the environment. Who is responsible for what? What is the difference between an active and an activist citizen?

Activities:

- **Categorising active citizenship:** ask your students to collect newspaper headlines and put them into categories of (a) different social spheres; (b) different people/agencies responsible for solving problems
- **Photo analysis:** ask your students to bring in photos of the local area and identify problems. What is the nature of the problem? Why is it a problem? Who is responsible for solving this problem? How could we get involved?

- **Mystery activity:** choose a news article and write out the main parts. Cut up these sentences and mix them up. Your students then have to piece the story together in order to find out how the event happened/problem came about. Ask how this could have been prevented, how it could be solved and who is responsible.
- **Emotional Mapping:** explore how your student's journey to school makes them feel. Ask them to draw a sketch map of their route and describe how they feel along the way. Why do they feel that way and what can be done about it? Who should be responsible for improving places?

Useful Links

www.bbc.co.uk for local, national and global news stories

Website: www.geocitizen.org.uk

Email: geocitizenproject@googlemail.com