

BUILDING GLOBAL CITIZENS

People around the world are more connected than they have ever been before. Students have instant access to news, information, and people from all over the world. However, easy access to information does not guarantee that students will think critically or try to understand points of view or experiences that may differ from their own. Therefore, today's educators have the important responsibility to build global citizens in their classrooms.

What is global citizenship?

According to the United Nations, the term *global citizenship* refers to the idea that a person belongs to multiple, diverse communities that are both local and non-local. Global citizens understand that their actions can have an impact on people and societies beyond the communities they belong to. Global citizens also try to be aware of events happening beyond their communities and how those events affect the people involved.

How does a teacher build global citizens in the classroom?

Global citizenship is not a simple concept to teach. It does not include certain facts, knowledge, or processes that students must master. Instead, teaching global citizenship involves guiding students to

- develop an awareness and concern for events outside their own communities;
- seek information from multiple sources and think critically about that information;
- try to understand experiences, ways of living, and points of view different from their own;
- consider the connection between different communities and the effects that different actions (by individuals, governments, or other groups or institutions) can have on others.

A teacher can encourage global citizenship with activities that help students learn about experiences and issues outside of their own communities. Teachers can help students increase their understanding of their role in the world with activities that expose students to new information, different types of people, and issues that may not be common in their own community.

This month in Teacher’s Corner, we will present classroom resources and activities that can help to foster a sense of global citizenship in your students.

Week 1: World Tour

Week 2: Current Events — Regional Reporters

Week 3: Global Pen Pals

Week 4: Using Skype in the Classroom