

## CIVIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



### LESSON SUMMARY

BENCHMARK
<b>SS.5.CG.2.4</b> Evaluate the importance of civic duties and responsibilities to the preservation of the United States' constitutional republic.
BENCHMARK CLARIFICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Students will explain what it means for the United States to be a constitutional republic.</li><li>■ Students will identify duties (e.g., obeying the law, paying taxes, serving on a jury) and responsibilities (e.g., voting, keeping informed on public issues) that citizens are expected to fulfill.</li><li>■ Students will explain what could happen to the United States if citizens did not fulfill their civic duties and responsibilities.</li></ul>
CORRELATED FLORIDA STANDARDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>ELA.5.F.1.3:</b> <i>Use knowledge of grade-appropriate phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.F.1.4:</b> <i>Read grade-level texts with accuracy, automaticity, and appropriate prosody or expression.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.R.2.1:</b> <i>Explain how text structures and/or features contribute to the overall meaning of texts.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.R.2.2:</b> <i>Explain how relevant details support the central idea(s), implied or explicit.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.C.4.1:</b> <i>Conduct research to answer a question, organizing information about the topic and using multiple reliable and valid sources.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.V.1.1:</b> <i>Use grade-level academic vocabulary appropriately in speaking and writing.</i></li><li>■ <b>ELA.5.V.1.3:</b> <i>Use context clues, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials, and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.</i></li></ul>
ESSENTIAL QUESTION
Why are civic duties and responsibilities important?
VOCABULARY
constitutional republic, civic duties, civic responsibilities
MATERIALS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Chart Paper</li></ul>

- Sticky Notes (2 per student)
- Highlighters
- Civic Duties and Responsibilities reading
- Civic Duties and Responsibilities PSA worksheet

## ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

### INTRODUCTION/HOOK

1. Write 'Must Do' on one piece of chart paper and 'Should Do' on another.
2. Pass out at least two sticky notes to each student.
3. Inform the students that today we are going to make a list of things that citizens of a community/state/nation should do and things that citizens must do. The students will be responsible for writing at least one 'must do' and at least one 'should do' on each sticky note.

**Teacher Note:** *If necessary, quickly review with students the difference between 'should' and 'must'. Possible examples include: must follow laws, should be polite, must go to school, should help others/volunteer, must pay taxes, should be respectful to other people/property, should vote in elections.*

4. Allow the students time to place the sticky notes on the corresponding chart papers.
5. Lead a brief discussion about some of the examples listed under 'must do' and 'should do'. Are there any that should be moved? Are there any that only apply to adults?

### ACTIVITY

6. Lead the students to the understanding that in order for our government and country to run smoothly there are things that citizens should do and things that citizens must do. These are called civic duties and responsibilities.

**Teacher Note:** *As you make this connection for students, add the vocabulary of 'civic duties' to the top of the 'must do' chart paper and 'civic responsibilities' to the top of the 'should do' chart paper.*

7. Pass out the "Civic Duties and Responsibilities" reading and highlighters.
8. Read the passage with the students.
9. While reading, have the students highlight the definition of a constitutional republic along with examples of civic duties and civic responsibilities. As they locate this text evidence, pause to allow students time to answer the reading questions in the space provided.
10. Review answers as a whole class.
11. Have the students move into pairs or small groups and answer the question on the reading regarding what they think would happen if citizens did not fulfill these civic duties and responsibilities.

12. Give the students time to share out consequences of inaction and discuss whole group.

**Teacher Note:** *By not following civic duties there are usually legal consequences. However, there aren't really legal consequences to not doing civic responsibilities. But allow the students to think about what life would be like without charity fundraisers, or ocean clean ups, or people just helping one another. Most importantly, stress that our system of government (a constitutional republic) would start to crumble as it relies on all citizens fulfilling these duties and responsibilities (i.e. voting, taxes, jury duty) to work.*

### CLOSURE/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

13. Pass out the "Civic Duties and Responsibilities PSA" worksheet.

14. Have students create a public service announcement that encourages citizens to engage in/fulfill a civic duty or responsibility.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[FJCC/LFI Website](#)

### ANSWER KEYS

"Civic Duties and Responsibilities" sample answers

"Civic Duties and Responsibilities PSA" sample answers

### SOURCES

n/a