

## WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

What does it mean to be a citizen? What advantages does it offer? In this section you will:

- investigate the meaning of citizenship and the impact it has on people's lives
- look at the rights and responsibilities that come with citizenship and how these develop over time
- examine ways in which you feel included, or excluded, as a citizen, either at local, national or European level

global



### Activity 1

Work with a partner, or in a small group, and brainstorm possible meanings of the word **CITIZEN**. Write any words that come into your head that you associate with citizen or citizenship. What does it mean? You don't have to explain your choices just get your ideas down on paper.



- What is a citizen?
- What are the rights of a citizen?
- What are the responsibilities of a citizen?
- What does it mean to be an active citizen?

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**Activity  
continued**

**Activity 4 continued**

Imagine you are a member of the group living on the island. What would you include in your citizens' charter?

If you are already working with a group of people, try negotiating a citizens' charter for life on the island? What problems do you have in agreeing on what to include in the charter for your new community? How can you resolve them?

What similarities and what differences are there for citizens of your new society and the one you live in?

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**Activity 2 continued**

**Citizens' rights and responsibilities**



Activity  
continued

<b>Topic</b>	<b>What are your rights?</b>	<b>What are your responsibilities?</b>
<b>personal property</b>		
<b>family</b>		
<b>health</b>		
<b>education</b>		
<b>care</b>		
<b>voting</b>		
<b>old age</b>		

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Activity continued

Activity 2 continued

Citizens' involvement and barriers to involvement

Topic	In what ways are you involved?	What prevents you from getting involved?
personal property		
family		
health		
education		
care		
voting		
old age		

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**Activity 5**

**Check up on your understanding of citizenship**



Activity

Does citizenship have the same meaning for everyone? Say why, or why not.

Do some citizens have more rights and responsibilities than others?

How would you describe an "active citizen"?

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Activity  
continued

**Activity 5 continued**

How would you describe a "good citizen"?

Has your understanding of citizenship changed after doing these *Activities*?  
If so, can you say in what ways?

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