

What does it mean to be a Global Citizen Lesson Plan



This lesson plan will help children understand what it means to be a Global Citizen, linking their everyday choices to caring for people, the planet, and a fairer, more sustainable world. Children will explore a poem on Global Citizenship through listening, discussion, and creative response. Pupils play a sorting game with picture cards, then draw themselves as global citizens. Pupils reflect together and join in a class promise.

Class Level: Younger Primary (1st–3rd Class)

Focus: Exploring global citizenship through story, art, and play.
Time: 50–60 minutes

Curriculum Links

SPHE: Myself and the Wider World – recognising fairness, caring for others and the environment.

SESE: (Geography/Science): Environmental awareness & care – litter, waste, energy.

English: Oral language – responding to a poem.

Arts: Music & Visual Arts – expressing ideas creatively.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, pupils will be able to:

Identify simple ways to care for the world (e.g., reducing waste, saving energy, showing kindness).

Recognise that people, animals, and nature need protection.

Understand that peace and friendship are important for everyone.

Express their understanding of global citizenship through drawing, sorting activities, and discussion.

Methodologies:

Talk and discussion
Active learning (sorting game)
Collaborative work
Visual arts response

Assessment:

Observation during sorting activity and discussion.
Drawing response to poem.
Contributions to final reflection.

Resources:

Poem (printed or projected)
World map/globe
Picture cards (waste, animals, peace, friendship, energy)
Art materials (paper, crayons, markers)
Music clips (optional)

Differentiation:

Support: Use picture prompts and scaffold questions.

Extension: Invite children to write/dictate their own “It’s about...” line for the poem.

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Lesson Plan



What Does it Mean to be a Global Citizen?

For Younger Classes (1st–3rd)

Part 1: Listen & Think

Teacher reads a poem, or shares the video <https://youtu.be/pagkRdHo5nI>, about Global Citizenship. Instruct pupils when they hear the words “It’s about...” put their hands in the air

Part 2: Match the Ideas

In groups pupils draw a line to match the picture with the idea:

Litter & Waste → _____

Energy → _____

Peace & Friendship → _____

Animals & Nature → _____

Part 3: Draw Yourself as a Global Citizen

Ask pupils to draw a picture of themselves helping the world.
(It could be recycling, planting a tree, helping friends, protecting animals...)

My picture shows me... _____

Part 4: Our Promise

Together we say:

“I am happy to be a Global Citizen!”

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A Global Citizen

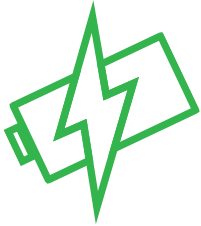
I heard them wonder
What does it mean to be a Global Citizen?

And I say to them

It's about litter and waste
Understanding how they affect our global ecosystems
From the East to the West



It's about energy
That conserving each watt is an essential remedy



It's about human rights
A world that's fair for all and just

It's about understanding the wider world
Including places our ears had never heard

It's about taking care of our vast resources
And understanding our impacts on faraway places



It's about global peace
While advocating for harmony and total bliss

It's about the climate
How a good balance, makes each living organism delighted.

It's about development for all
It's about inclusivity
It's about the decisions I make
And what they mean, for my futures sake



It's about knowing that extreme poverty can be eliminated
And that whales, lions and tigers need to be safeguarded

It's about diversity
And how we share one language, called humanity

It's about
The fiddle of Ireland
The drums of Africa
The pianos of America
The Koto and pipa of Asia
The flutes of Oceania



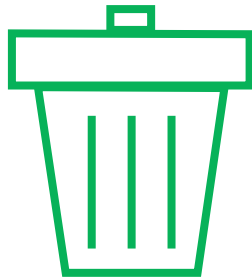
Together leading to a beautiful symphony in our shared land

Global citizenship
Is about you and I
and I welcome you to becoming
A Global Citizen

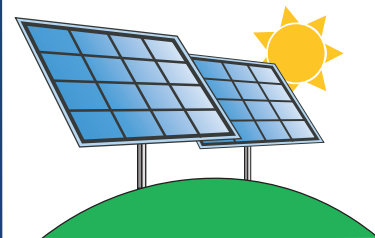
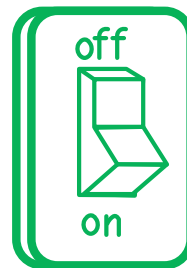


Matching Activity

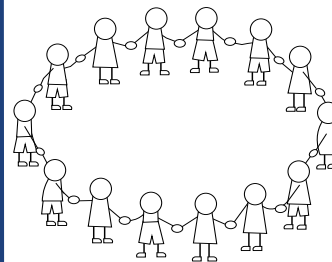
Litter & Waste



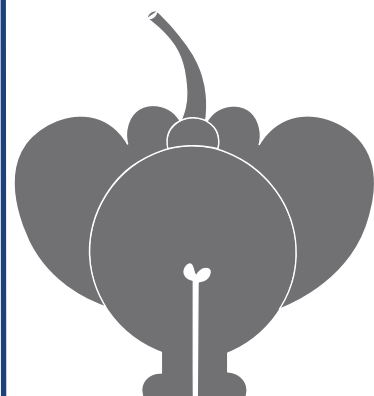
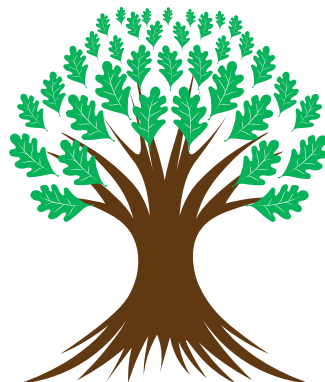
Energy



Peace & Friendship



Animals & Nature



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Curriculum Links Template

Subject	Strand	Strand Unit	Younger Classes (1st–3rd)
SPHE	Myself and the Wider World	Developing citizenship	Recognise the need to care for the environment and others (sorting game, drawing 'Me as a Global Citizen').
SPHE	Myself and Others	My friends and other people	Discuss friendship, kindness, and peace (reflection at end).
SESE – Geography	Human Environments	People and other lands	Use globe/map to recognise people live all over the world.
SESE – Geography	Environmental Awareness and Care	Caring for my locality & planet	Recognise how litter/waste affects animals and places.
SESE – Science	Environmental Awareness	Science and the environment	Explore simple actions like switching off lights or recycling.
English	Oral Language	Developing competence & confidence	Respond orally to poem lines ('It's about...') and sorting activity.
English	Reading	Responding to text	Listen and respond to a shared poem.
English	Writing	Emotional and imaginative writing	Draw + label responses to poem.
Music	Listening and Responding	Exploring sounds	Listen to instruments (guitar, drum, flute, koto, etc.).
Music	Performing	Song & rhythmic activities	Call-and-response with 'It's about...' refrain.
Visual Arts	Drawing / Construction / Fabric & Fibre	Making art to communicate	Create picture of 'Me as a Global Citizen.'