

# Citizens in Action

Read how people and groups serve their communities.

**3.9** "Citizenship. The student understands characteristics of good citizenship as exemplified by historical and contemporary figures and organizations. The student is expected to: identify characteristics of good citizenship..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline actions that show good citizenship. Circle each name of a person or organization that does an action.

### Actions That Help Everyone

- ① Good citizens act with truthfulness, justice, equality, respect for themselves and others, and responsibility. Helen Keller showed responsibility and respect by speaking and writing about the rights of people with disabilities. Clara Barton helped people hurt in war and later founded the American Red Cross. Ruby Bridges, a six-year-old student, helped desegregate a New Orleans school in 1960 by attending it despite angry crowds.
- ② Civic responsibility means doing your part in a community. Obeying laws, such as stopping at a red light, helps keep people safe. Picking up litter keeps shared places clean. Volunteering at a food pantry helps neighbors get food. Adults may serve on a jury by listening carefully to a court case and helping make a fair decision. Eligible citizens vote to help choose leaders and decide public questions.
- ③ Before voting, citizens learn about issues by reading reliable information and listening to different ideas. They can respectfully ask public officials to keep promises they made. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that provides disaster relief, teaches safety, and helps collect blood. Its work serves the common good, meaning it helps many people. A class can also vote to make a group decision, such as choosing a service project.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Name three characteristics of good citizenship from the first sentence.

**2** Choose Helen Keller or Clara Barton. What did that person do that showed good citizenship?

**3** What effect does the passage give for obeying laws, picking up litter, and volunteering at a food pantry?

**4** Name one way citizens can prepare for voting or respectfully hold officials to their word. Then name one way the Red Cross serves the common good.

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Create two service-project choices for a class vote. In the table, explain how each project would help the community, then place one check mark in the row you would vote for.

| SERVICE-PROJECT CHOICE | HOW IT HELPS THE COMMUNITY | MY VOTE |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
|                        |                            |         |
|                        |                            |         |

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline actions that show good citizenship. Circle each name of a person or organization that does an action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                           | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Name three characteristics of good citizenship from the first sentence.                                                                            | <b>Any three: truthfulness, justice, equality, respect for oneself and others, responsibility.</b>                                                                                                        |
| 2 | Choose Helen Keller or Clara Barton. What did that person do that showed good citizenship?                                                         | <b>Helen Keller spoke and wrote about the rights of people with disabilities. OR Clara Barton helped people hurt in war and founded the American Red Cross.</b>                                           |
| 3 | What effect does the passage give for obeying laws, picking up litter, and volunteering at a food pantry?                                          | <b>Obeying laws helps keep people safe. Picking up litter keeps shared places clean. Volunteering at a food pantry helps neighbors get food.</b>                                                          |
| 4 | Name one way citizens can prepare for voting or respectfully hold officials to their word. Then name one way the Red Cross serves the common good. | <b>Citizens can read reliable information, listen to different ideas, or respectfully ask officials to keep promises. The Red Cross provides disaster relief, teaches safety, or helps collect blood.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

| SERVICE-PROJECT CHOICE              | HOW IT HELPS THE COMMUNITY                | MY VOTE |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| Plant flowers at the public library | Makes a shared place nicer for visitors.  | ✓       |
| Collect new socks for a shelter     | Gives warm socks to people who need them. |         |

For Question 1, accept any three listed characteristics. Accept reasonable service-project choices and explanations that show how the project helps the community; the student should mark one choice as a vote.