



WEBSITES ABOUT CITIZENSHIP

SOURCE: Educationworld.com

1. **[Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/)**
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The Government Printing Office showcases this site for learning more about civics and citizenship. The site is broken down into grade levels: primary, upper elementary, middle school, and high school. There is lots of content housed here, along with games and activities to reinforce basic concepts. Activities include word searches, crosswords, scrambles, mazes, connect the dots, and matching games. The presentation is well developed across the grade levels.

2. **[Election Town Meeting](http://www.richmond.edu/~ed344/webquests/election/index.htm)**
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webquests/election/index.htm](http://www.richmond.edu/~ed344/webquests/election/index.htm)**

This high-school level WebQuest challenges students to work as a team of five people over a four day period, each playing a role: a Democratic presidential candidate, a Republican presidential candidate, an upper-class businessman, a middle class minority mother who is a member of a minority group, or a lower-income blue collar worker. Together, the students examine a number of Web-based resources and develop position papers, based on their roles, pertinent to the year 2000 national election. The provided rubrics and excellent attention to detail make the site a delight for any connected high school civics teacher to use.

3. **[Explorer Kids](http://www.epa.gov/kids/)**
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This Environmental Protection Agency site for kids emphasizes the role of good citizens

in maintaining the environment. Covering air and water pollution, the role of plants and animals in a healthy environment, and garbage and recycling, the site covers a lot of ground in an elementary-friendly format. Kids will be interested in the Clubhouse, which offers a number of activities to keep them involved, including artwork, games, science pages, and a link to the **President's Environmental Youth Awards** program. Click on **You & Your Environment** and scroll down to the link.

4. **[Great American Website](http://www.uncle-sam.com/)**

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This site bills itself as "the Citizen's Guide to U.S. Government Resources on the World Wide Web." Materials are organized by branches of government and agencies. Uncle Sam maintains first-rate research materials and databases for serious students, citizens, and anyone who wants to access "the largest source of information anywhere in the world." Although there is a site map, the Great American Web site does not have a search function, which is about all it lacks. You'll find great material here for your secondary students!

5. **[Iz and Auggie Go to the Polls](http://www.headbone.com/derby/polls/)**

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Headbone Derby offers a great set of Internet research activities. Built on National Content Standards for the Social Studies, activities encourage students to investigate the political process. Iz and Auggie learn all about the cabbage people and their government. The comic strip format draws kids in grades four through eight; they will learn something about citizenship before they realize it!

6. **[Justice for Kids and Youth](http://www.usdoj.gov/kidspage/)**

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The Department of Justice Web site features fascinating pages about the FBI, criminology, and the courts. The graphics catch the eye, and the site is loaded with content. Kids in grades K through five will enjoy **Working Dogs**, including dogs that can smell chemicals and dogs that help find people. Older kids can learn about civil rights, drug abuse prevention, and Internet safety. Material is organized into **Subjects**, for easy access by teachers.

7. **[Kids Next Door](http://www.hud.gov/kids/)**

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HUD offers this wonderful elementary-level site where teachers and students can explore the principles of being a good citizen. At **Meet Cool People**, kids learn about volunteerism and getting involved in the community. **See Neat Things** employs some great Web technologies, including streaming video. You'll need to install the **movie viewer**, which is a little more complicated than QuickTime or RealPlayer); JAVA animations; and a great scavenger hunt activity to do offline within the community. **Visit Awesome Places** includes virtual field trips and a kid's art gallery.

8. **[Kids Voting USA](http://www.kidsvotingusa.org/)**

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This nonprofit organization involves kids in current elections through online participation. Students are invited to keep up with election news, voting trends, and political traditions and practices. A number of downloadable teaching materials cover primaries, ballots, and vote counting. Of particular interest are the materials for watching the debates, including an extensive teacher's guide and classroom activities broken down

by grade level. Materials are in .pdf format, so make sure you have your free download of Acrobat Reader handy!

9. [Learning Adventures in Citizenship](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/newyork/laic/index.html)
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/newyork/laic/index.html>

PBS presents this Web site as a companion to a documentary about New York. Students can learn about their own communities through great activities such as the **Kids' Contest** and **Kids' Lab**, which are underway and will be judged this winter. The deadline for entries is December 1, 2000, so be sure to get in there, make use of this site, and have your kids participate!

10. [Phoebe for President](http://www.citizenphoebe.com/)
<http://www.citizenphoebe.com/>

Phoebe is an idealistic teen who wants to become the next president of the United States. Her brother Norbert and friends David and Paula serve as Phoebe's advisers and managers. She explores the political process and gives her audience insight into the way the American system of government works. The site is broken down into background information and episodes, and the first two episodes were posted a month ago. There's more to come, and it's sure to get exciting as November approaches, so stay tuned!