

Citizenship in the World

Requirement 1

Explain what citizenship in the world means to you and what you think it takes to be a good world citizen.

Being a good world citizen is being aware of issues occurring on a global scale. **It means trying to help wherever you can and having empathy for those in difficult situations all around the world. It means not looking at borders that separate us, but instead,** focusing on the similarities that bind us together.

Requirement 2

2A) Explain how one becomes a citizen in the United States...

- Making yourself aware of all federal, state, and local laws.
- Following all laws and regulations in good faith.
- If you witness any crimes, reporting what you've seen to the authorities.
- Attending jury duty if you are called upon.
- Paying all of your taxes honestly and in a timely manner.
- Fighting in the military and defending your country, if necessary.
- Voting in local, state, and federal elections to strengthen our democracy.

2B) ...and explain the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizenship.

Some of your most important rights as a US citizen include:

- The right to vote (if age 18 or older).
- Freedom of speech, religion, and expression.
- The right to a quick, fair trial by jury.
- Freedom to apply for employment and work within the country.
- The ability to run for a political office.
- The right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

2C) Discuss the SIMILARITIES and DIFFERENCES between the rights, duties, and obligations of U.S. citizens and of two other countries.

United States vs. United Kingdom

The government of the United Kingdom (UK) shares many of the same values and principles as our government here in the US. **Both US and UK citizens are expected to vote and are given the right to free expression.** However, some differences in citizen obligations between the US and UK include healthcare costs and state welfare. In the UK, healthcare is free and provided by the government!

United States vs. North Korea

On the other hand, the US and North Korea are vastly different. **In North Korea, citizens have very few rights and cannot freely express opinions that differ from those of the regime.** One of the few similarities though is that many citizens in both the US and North Korea believe that peace can be achieved through strength, and are willing to dutifully serve in the military to achieve those ends.

Requirement 3

Do the following:

A) pick a current world event. In relation to this current event, discuss with your counselor how a country's national interest and its relationship with other countries might affect areas such as its security, its economy, its values, and the health of its citizens.

A current world event is the **Coronavirus pandemic** which began in China, but is now affecting the entire world. Briefly, the Coronavirus originated in Wuhan, China, and has currently infected millions of people around the world, including the US.

The Chinese government limits the free-speech of its citizens so it spread quickly to all countries. It has greatly devastated the US: thousands of people dying, hospitals not prepared with staff or supplies, businesses ordered to shut down and kids having to learn online. To date there is now a vaccine but not herd immunity so the country is slowing recovering with a long way to go.

The US is working with other countries to share the vaccines so that US travelers can go to other countries.

B) Select a foreign country and discuss with your counselor how its geography, natural resources, and climate influence its economy and its global partnerships with other countries.

China: China is one of the largest countries in the world, with a diverse range of geographic features including coastlines, mountains, deserts, plains, and rain forests.

Some of **China's natural resources are mineral deposits and fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas.** China also has a lot of water that is used to generate electricity and irrigate crops. Due to China's large population of over 1 billion people, the country also has a wealth of human labor.

China is a major global exporter and produces much of the world's machinery and electrical equipment. With its abundance of natural resources, China has been able to establish strong global partnerships with other countries like the US and Japan. This has led to China's rapid economic growth and allowed it to achieve valuable technological breakthroughs. However, due to the pandemic and shut downs there is now a shortage of computer chips needed for new cars. Ford and GM plants have been shut down due to not having the parts it needs to make the cars.

Requirement 4

Do TWO of the following:

A) Explain international law and how it differs from national law. Explain the role of international law and how international law can be used as a tool for conflict resolution

National law applies only to its country's citizens and are the laws that you and I follow on a daily basis. **International law is an agreement among countries.** While national law can differ among countries, international law is consistent between all agreeing nations and exists to promote the welfare of all humankind.

Below is a quick list of the similarities and differences between national and international law:

National Law

- Handled entirely by a single country without outside input.
- National laws do not extend outside of a country's borders
- Various range of punishments can be assigned for breaking national law.
- Mainly applies to individuals
- Based on a country's foundational documents (constitution).

Both

- Written laws/agreements that will result in a punishment if violated.

- Verdicts delivered by a court system.
- Focused on maintaining peace and finding justice.
- Can be amended to follow changes in human beliefs and principles.

International Law

- Decided upon by many countries working together.
- Exists everywhere, even outside of any country's borders
- Punishments mainly include fines or sanctions
- Mainly applies to countries.
- Based on agreements among countries (treaties).

Essentially, international law refers to the responsibilities that countries have to each other, as well as to the world and its people. Since the main goal of international law is to promote peace, it can serve as a mediator between countries and be a useful tool for discouraging war or ending conflicts.

***B)** Using resources such as major daily newspapers, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and news magazines, observe a current issue that involves international trade, foreign exchange, balance of payments, tariffs, and free trade. Explain what you have learned. Include in your discussion an explanation of why countries must cooperate in order for world trade and global competition to thrive. This option requires the Scout to do independent research.*

***C)** Select TWO of the following organizations and describe their role in the world.*

The United Nations- is an international organization whose stated aims are facilitating cooperation in international law, international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and achievement of world peace.

The World Court- is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations. It is based in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Its main functions are to settle legal disputes submitted to it by states and to provide advisory opinions on legal questions submitted to it by duly authorized international organs, agencies, and the UN General Assembly.

World Organization of the Scout Movement-The mission of WOSM is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Scout Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society. World Organization of the Scout Movement is organized into regions and operates with a conference, committee and bureau.

The World Health Organization-providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed; shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge; setting norms and standards and

promoting and monitoring their implementation; articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options; providing technical support, catalyzing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends.

Amnesty International- is a non-governmental organization focused on human rights with over 3 million members and supporters around the world. The objective of the organization is "to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated."

The International Red Cross- is an international humanitarian movement with approximately 97 million volunteers, members and staff worldwide which was founded to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for all human beings, and to prevent and alleviate human suffering, without any discrimination based on nationality, race, sex, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.

CARE-It helps with health with almost all of the countries.

Requirement 5

Do the following:

A) Discuss the differences between constitutional and nonconstitutional governments.

A constitutional government exists when a country is governed by a written set of principles and laws that are superior to the powers of any elected official. For instance, the US is a constitutional government because it has a constitution that outlines the rights and responsibilities of its leaders and citizens.

On the other hand, **a non-constitutional government does not limit its leader's power, and will typically take the form of a monarchy or dictatorship.** Officials and leaders of nonconstitutional governments have unchecked power and are able to make political decisions, administer punishment, and change or create laws as they see fit.

The main difference between a non-constitutional government and a constitutional government is that **a constitutional government has limited power (leader's power is checked), adheres to a higher law (no party is above the law), and has constitutional stability (can't easily change laws).**

Constitutional Government (United States)

- **The US is an example of a constitutional government.**
- **Elected officials must follow the laws of the constitution, and can be removed from office or imprisoned for crimes.**

- The constitution cannot be changed without following established procedures and receiving the input of citizens.
- A court system exists to fairly establish justice among citizens.
- Citizens are protected by the constitution and free to exercise certain rights.

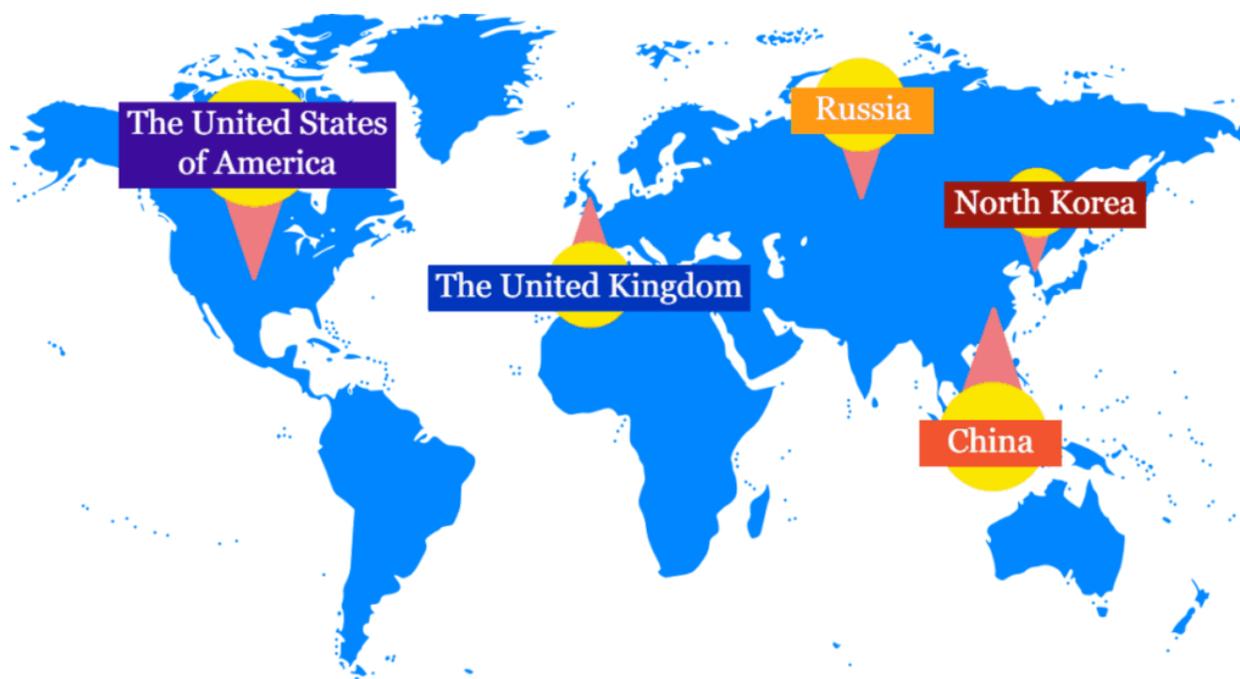
Non-constitutional Government (North Korea)

- North Korea is an example of a non-constitutional government.
- People in authority are above the law, and not held responsible for any crimes they might commit.
- The leaders are free to create and change laws at will.
- A non-constitutional court system may be biased, or might not even exist at all.
- The majority of citizens do not have rights and can be imprisoned or killed unjustly.

B) Name at least five different types of governments currently in power in the world.

- United States- Federal republic, Representative democracy (democratic republic)
- Canada- Federal parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy
- Spain- Parliamentary monarchy
- Poland- Republic, Libya- People's Congress
- North Korea- Single-party state
- Brazil- Democratic federal republic
- Niger- Parliamentary democracy

C) Show on a world map countries that use each of these five different forms of government.



Requirement 6

Do the Following:

A) Explain how a government is represented abroad and how the United States government is accredited to international organizations.

Governments are represented abroad by their political heads of state, ambassadors, or other high-ranking leaders in diplomatic roles. These individuals represent their country's interests on an international stage and participate in organizations such as the United Nations and NATO.

To be involved in these organizations, a group or individual will need to be accredited. Being accredited is like being certified, and basically means that one's membership has been officially approved and that they'd been 'sworn in'. The United States government is accredited to international organizations by agreeing to the organization's bylaws and becoming an official member.

Both ambassadors and groups can be accredited to organizations and will be expected to participate in the organization's activities. The accredited group or individual must also try to promote whatever cause the organization is supporting.

B) Describe the roles of the following in the conduct of foreign relations:

- **Ambassador:** a diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign or state to another as its resident representative (ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary), usually for a specific length of time. He or she is a diplomatic official heading his or her country's permanent mission to certain international organizations; such as the United Nations; and is an authorized representative of a nation to deliver their nation's messages and protect the national interest of the nation they represent through diplomatic means.
- **Consul:** an official appointed by the government of one country to look after its commercial interests and the welfare of its citizens in another country, as well as providing assistance to Americans traveling abroad.
- **Bureau of International Information Programs:** The Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) is the principal international strategic communications service for the foreign affairs community. IIP designs, develops, and implements a variety of information initiatives and strategic communications programs, including Internet and print publications, traveling and electronically transmitted speaker programs, and information resource services. These reach--and are created strictly for--key international audiences, such as the media, government officials, opinion leaders, and the general public in more than 140 countries around the world.
- **U.S Agency for International Development:** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the United States federal government agency primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid. President John F. Kennedy created USAID in 1961 by executive order to implement development assistance programs in the areas authorized by the Congress in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. An independent federal agency, USAID receives overall foreign policy guidance from the United States Secretary of State and seeks to "extend a helping hand to those people overseas struggling to make a better life, recover from a disaster or striving to live in a free and democratic country.
- **United States and Foreign Commercial Service:** The U.S. Commercial Service (CS), the trade promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, helps U.S. companies succeed in markets around the world. Led by Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General Suresh Kumar and located across the United States and in U.S. Embassies and Consulates in nearly 80 countries, the CS global network of trade professionals helps thousands of U.S. companies to export goods and services worth billions of dollars every year.

C) Explain the purpose of a passport and visa for international travel.

- **A passport is a method of identification and is used to signify one's citizenship to their home country.** It is always necessary to carry a passport when traveling internationally.
- **A visa is used to specify the reasons why someone might be traveling to another country, as well as the length of time they're allowed to stay.** Some countries have an agreement with the United States and do not require a visa for entry.
- **Both passports and visas exist to keep track of visitors entering into a country and to prevent illegal immigration.** When traveling internationally, it is usually required that you bring a passport and visa to be granted entrance into another country. Your visa and passport will be checked and verified by customs (border protection) upon arrival.

Requirement 7

Do two of the following (with your parent's permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:

A) Visit the Web site of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this Web site.

Web Site: <http://www.state.gov/>

B) Visit the Web site of an international news organization or foreign government...

Example Website (news organization): <http://www.ap.org/>

...OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.

C) Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.

D) Attend a world Scout jamboree.

E) Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.

Source: The majority of this content is a credit to Scoutsmarts, a great tool for merit badges.

<https://scoutsmarts.com/citizenship-in-the-world-merit-badge-guide/>