



# We the **CIVICS** Kids



- ★ **Make A Difference**  
Yes You Can!
- ★ **A Penny Saved**  
What You Learned
- ★ **Your Voice. Your Vote.**  
Sing It. Say It. Do It.

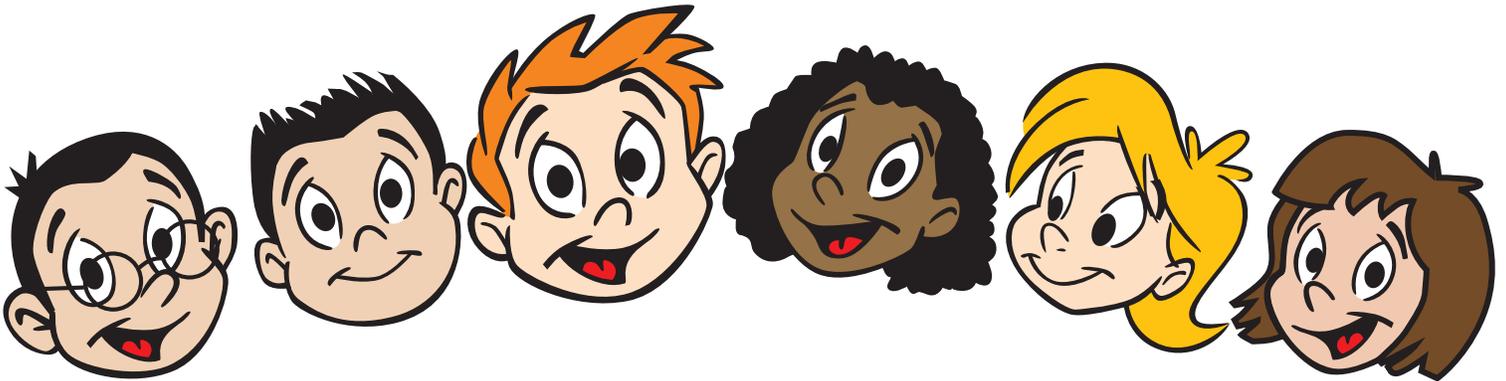


Lesson 8

## Lesson 8: Making A Difference

# Kid Power Yes, You Can!

Sarah Dewitz of Cypress Springs Elementary School in Florida started to collect "Just 1 Book" from every student in her elementary school. She wanted to donate the books to help a local community center's underfunded reading room. Due to the outstanding response and support of this program, "Just 1 Book" was formed as an on-going book drive and non-profit organization. By coordinating book donation drives, she collects books and then re-distributes them to those in need. Close to 2,000 books have already been distributed, and many more are promised. This cause recycles books and gets them to those that need them. "Just 1 Book will make a difference in the life of a child."



Mrs. Jephson's fourth graders were studying the Eastern Box Turtle in science class. The class decided that their state needed a state reptile, and that the state reptile should be the Eastern Box Turtle. They did a lot more research. Then they approached State Representative Lawrence Curry and asked for his help. He sponsored a bill that was designed to protect the Eastern Box Turtle from becoming extinct in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by having it named the state reptile. The bill passed in the State House of Representatives but did not pass in the State Senate. The students in Mrs. Jephson's class learned how important it is to be an active citizen. They also learned how to have their voices heard no matter their age. These students are committed to staying active in their community.

Josie and Amanda are ten-year-olds who are active members of a Pennsylvania Girl Scout troop. As part of their work, the girls chose to hold a food drive in their community. All of the 500 pounds of food they collected were donated to Philabundance, an organization that distributes food to needy families throughout Philadelphia. Josie and Amanda found that the people in their community were happy to donate and liked the idea of being able to help others. Both girls were awarded the junior Girl Scout's highest award, the Bronze Award. They also learned how they can make a difference. Josie and Amanda intend to hold their food drive every year!

The stories you just read are examples of civic engagement. Civic engagement means working to make a difference in our communities and developing the knowledge and skills to make that difference. In this program's lessons you learned about your government, how it works, and your rights and responsibilities as a citizen of our government. You also practiced skills in letting your voice be heard, looking for ways to solve problems, listening to the ideas of your classmates, and petitioning a higher authority as an activist for a cause.

*Now it is your turn to make a difference!*

### Sticky Situation:

You have been saving your allowance for weeks to buy the latest video game that will be released on Friday. Your school is holding a fundraiser this week to collect money for a classmate's family whose home has burned down. If you give a donation, you will have to wait to save more money to purchase the video game.





## Civic Literacy Links Making A Difference

- **Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand** by Jay and Liz Scott
- **Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen** by Dyanne Disalvo-Ryan
- **Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World** by Garth Sundem
- **Kids Make a Difference** Scholastic:  
<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=504>

# Let's Hear Your Voices!

You have listened to the ideas of your classmates about engagement projects for your class. Now is the time for you to vote. What is your favorite? Which one would you like to join? Why?

- ★ Write your decision on one of the colored index cards. Remember to support your opinion with at least one reason.
- ★ When you are finished, post your card on the Student Voices Bulletin Board. Remember, even though your favorite might not win, there is sure to be a project in which you would like to participate.

