

Citizens of Planet Earth



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Table of Contents

Global Connections 4

★ ★ Jump into Fiction: ★

 Kira and Dad in Vietnam..... 6

Becoming Active Citizens 10

Enough Food for All16

Equal Opportunities for All..... 20

A Healthy Planet for All 24

Reaching Out..... 28

Glossary..... 30

Index31

Civics in Action 32

For Review Only



Global Connections

There are almost eight billion people on Earth. That's a lot of humans across one planet! Around the globe, each of these people is living a unique life. But we all have a lot in common, too.

Everyone is a part of their local community. This is your home. It's where you live and learn. We often take active roles in our communities. Many of us will find ways to care for our homes. You may pick up trash in your neighborhood. A friend might volunteer at a food bank. All these actions add up to a healthy home.





But we are also all part of a larger community. Every person shares the same home: planet Earth. Since we share a home, we are part of the same worldwide community.

Our global community faces many challenges. And there are ways we can help out. We can each begin by becoming a global citizen. Global citizens learn about their world. They work for issues affecting people worldwide. Caring about their home is important to them. And they know that we are all in this together.

Jump into
Fiction



KIRA AND DAD IN VIETNAM

Kira had never left America before. But she and her dad always took an annual summer trip. And this time, Dad was taking Kira to Vietnam! He wanted her to learn more about where his family had come from.

The two arrived in Hanoi. For Kira, everything looked, tasted, and felt different from what she was used to. Her eyes spun in circles, trying to keep track of everything new. Thousands of scooters streamed down the streets. Street vendors crowded the sidewalks.

“Everything is so different here, huh?” Kira said to her dad. He just smiled at her.





A week later, they traveled down to Hoi An. On their first day, they went on a bike tour around the city. Halfway through, the group came across an older woman. She was using long, skinny blades of grass to make a mat. Their guide said, “She weaves these mats, day in and day out. It’s a lot of work. However, a weaver makes just about two dollars a day.”

Kira felt her heart squeeze. She remembered her dad had paid \$45 each for their bike tour. The woman weaving the mats looked right at Kira. She nodded her head and smiled. Kira smiled back, feeling very shy.



That evening, Kira and her dad sat on little plastic stools by the city's river. They ordered their dinner off a simple menu with very low prices.

"What did you think about the bike tour?" Dad asked.

"It was lots of fun...but it was tough seeing the weaver making mats. I've never really thought about the ways that life might be different for people around the world."

Dad nodded his head thoughtfully. "At home, we talk a lot about what it means to be an American citizen. We have rights and responsibilities. But we should also keep in mind that we're global citizens."

"What's that?"

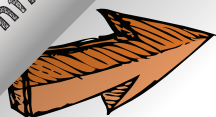
"It means we're citizens of a worldwide community," Dad replied. "Our family...well, we're lucky that we have the money for all our needs as well as to travel. You can go to school at no cost. But others around the world don't always have the same opportunities." He thought for a minute and added, "Being a global citizen means being aware of the world around us. It also means working with others to build a world that is equal and fair."

Kira blinked, thinking about her dad's words. "How do we do that?" she asked.

Dad smiled and put his arm around Kira's shoulders. "We can start by getting curious. Staying open-minded helps us learn how to walk in another's shoes. And that's often when real change starts."



Back to
Nonfiction



Citizens of Planet Earth

Our worldwide community is facing numerous challenges. However, there are many ways we can help out! As global citizens, we can start by learning more about our world. We can also fight for issues affecting people around the globe. Let's look at some of our global challenges—and learn how we can each lend a hand.

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