

# Supplemental Script (Text) for Civics and the Natural World Presentation

SLIDE 1 Title page

SLIDE 2

## What is civics?

Basically civics is the study of governments and how governments affect how we live. Civics is the basic ideas and structure of our government at all levels: national, state, local (county and cities), and tribal.

Civics also includes how we got to where we are today, our history. Understanding our past lets us better protect our present and future. Government is not static but changes over time. It is important to understand how the world we live in has changed over time, and how we think and feel about what's important to us.

SLIDE 3

What kind of a society do we want to live in?

- Fair – equal rights and equal opportunities
- Open – freedom of expression. What is that?
- Voice in our government
- No discrimination – race, gender, disability, nation of origin, religion

SLIDE 4

**The government is made up of people. Everyone has a voice.**

SLIDE 5

## What makes a good citizen?

We are all citizens, no matter how old we are. Being a good citizen is how we treat people around us and how we take care of the natural world around us.

The most basic act of being a citizen is VOTING.

1. Try to be a person of good character,
2. Love to learn.
3. Learn science.
4. Don't feel you have to know everything.
5. Get to know your neighbors.
6. Spend time with people of different cultures and colors.
7. Know your rights and stand up for them.
8. Participate in the life of your community
9. Think about the common good and individual liberty.
10. Lean toward optimism
11. Think of yourself as a powerful person.

12. Question authority with respect
13. BE polite with others even if you disagree

SLIDE 6

### What do taxes pay for?

Taxes are assessed at all levels of Government: federal, state, and local. These taxes used to pay for a variety of services to the people.

How many things/services do taxes pay for? Can you name some?

List of possible answers (not complete): get answers from students

Highways & Roads

Bridges

Trains

Airports (including TSA & FAA)

Police

Firefighters/EMTs

Other emergency services (FEMA)

Schools & Libraries

Hospitals

Water/sewer

Parks

Public Buildings

Social & Health Services

Courts

One thing the government supports with our taxes is ART. By Washington State law whenever a new public building (like a school) is built ½ of 1 percent of the cost is spent on art. National and some local governments have similar support.

SLIDE 7

### What is ART to you?

Art is more than just paintings and drawings. Art is music, books, poems, photos, graphic novels, statues, pottery, and so much more. The League's visual arts competition is only accepting 2-dimensional and 3 dimensional art this year.

*Do you have art at home? at school? In your room? List*

*Do you make art? What kinds of art do you like to make?*

SLIDE 8

### The Natural World

What makes up the natural world around us? Can you list?

**Land** – Who owns the land?

When Washington became a state, the federal government held on to about 13 million acres as public trust. Multiple agencies care for this land: National Parks Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Forest Service, and more. Most of these lands are open to us (the people) to use responsibly. There are rules and restrictions that we must obey. For instance when a road is closed, there may be bad erosion problems, public safety, or habitat restoration projects need to be protected. Some Federal land have restricted access. Can you say what? **Military Bases, Dams and Handford Nuclear Reservation.**

The Federal government gave the state 6.5 million acres. Some of this land is State Parks (the state has added more State Parks). The majority is administered By Department of Natural Resources DNR. The state leases out a portion of

this land (forests for logging, grasslands for grazing livestock, and shorelines to raise shellfish) to raise money for other projects like public buildings. State lands are also used for recreation, like parks historic sites and trails, wildlife refuges.

Local governments, counties and cities/towns own and take care of public lands: parks, roads and sidewalks and public buildings.

**Air** – How do we protect the air we breathe?

Air pollution is a major problem and hurts the health of many of our citizens. There are many causes of air pollution: cars & trucks, dust, wildfires and more. Air pollution does not stay in one place. When you have a campfire the smoke never goes straight up in the air, but goes after everyone sitting around it no matter how often you move. Air pollution is like that wildfires in Canada drive us inside because of the smoke.

In 1970 both the Federal and State governments passed laws to help clean up our air and protect all citizens because piecemeal action was not working. The Federal law created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in Washington the Department of Ecology regulate industry to keep toxic chemicals out of the air. In our state there are no more coal burning power plants and we are relying on more renewable power sources.

As citizens we can help by conserving energy, don't always jump in the car for a single errand and many more. How many more ca you think of?

**Water** – How do we protect our water and insure there is enough for everyone and the plants and animals who also need this precious resource?

“WATER IS LIFE”

Water policy is a very complex problem. Good laws must be based on good science. This is one reason why it is important to learn science to be a good citizen,

The four big issues about water are

- How to keep it clean. (The EPA makes regulations about what can be put into water and monitors water to ensure it is safe.)
- How to be fair about who controls it.
- How to make sure we don't use more than can be replaced.
- How to adapt to change on water caused by climate change including changes in precipitation and acidification of the ocean.

The quest of who owns the water. In Washington the State owns water and grant water rights to towns, cities, farmers, landowners and tribes (granted rights in treaties). The rule in water rights disputes is “first in time in first in right”. The needs of fish and other animals must also be considered. When the Yakima River did not have enough flow to support fish. The right to draw water to irrigate crops has been denied. A property owner can be denied the right to drill a well for a new house if there is not enough available water. This has caused many disputes.

**Plants and Animals (including us humans)**

One way the government works to protect plant and animal life and diversity is by the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. Both the Federal government (US Fish and Wildlife) and Washington state government (WA Fish and Wildlife) have lists of species. Some animals are only on the Federal list (green sturgeon, least tern) and some are only on the state list (western pond turtle, tufted puffin) and some are on both (loggerhead sea turtle, marbled murrelet, lynx). Some species are classified as sensitive. These lists are reviewed and updated frequently,

Can you name other endangered animals? **Monarch Butterfly, Leopard frog, Pacific Lamprey, Salmon species, Bull trout, sandhill crane, Sage grouse, Golden eagles, ferruginous Hawk, spotted owl, pygmy rabbit, fishers, grey wolf, Grizzly bear.** This list is only partial see if you can find more.

All of these things are interconnected in the Web of Life. For example, one reason orcas are threatened is because their food supply is threatened. Can anyone name their food? **Salmon**

#### SLIDE 9

How does the government relate to the natural world?

- Government protects the world around us.
- Decisions we make (i.e., Voting) will impact the future.
- How do WE take care of the earth? Who is in charge of Taking care of our earth?

One the most important jobs of government is to protect the world around us for everyone! We depend on governments at all levels to do this for us now and for future generations. Some of the decisions we made in the past, when the world had less people are hurting us now and may change our future. The decisions we make now will also affect the future.

*How do we take care of the earth?*

*Who is in charge of taking care of the earth?*

*Are there things that you are concerned about in the context of stewardship of the natural world?*

*What Ideas do they have and then what other suggestions can we make?*

#### SLIDE 10

Whose Land are we on?

Where are they now?

The people who used to live in Whitman County were the Palouse/Palus Indians. They lived in villages and camps primarily along the rivers. The Palouse were relocated to four interior reservations, the Colville, Yakima, Umatilla or the Nez Perce Reservations.

*Renegade Tribe, The Palouse Indians and the Invasion of the Inland Pacific Northwest* by Clifford Trafzer and Richard Scheuerman, 1986, WSU Press.

#### SLIDE 11

What do you think the land looked in your area looked before anyone arrived to build on it?

Two suggested activities from Grade 3-5 Teacher Guide

SLIDE 12 – 18 Native or Not pictures

SLIDE 19 Art Contest

SLIDE 20 Quiz Questions