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GREENS Make

Being a **citizen** means being part of a **community**. A community is a place where people live, work, and play.

Some communities are small, like a family. Other communities are big, such as a country. The whole world is another kind of community, with Earth as its home.



Citizens make their communities special by making a difference. How do citizens make a difference? By helping each other!

Citizens work hard to make their communities great places to live for everyone. Citizens do this in many ways, such as helping their neighbors shovel snow or picking up garbage in parks.



What does making afference means



Juan returns to school after having his tonsils removed. He tells Katie it made him sad that there weren't many toys in the hospital for him and the other children to play with.

"Why did it make you sad?" asks Katie.



"I was sad because having more toys to play with would have helped me miss my family less," says Juan.

"I have an idea," says Katie. "Let's collect toys and donate them to the hospital. We can help other kids not be sad."

"Great idea," says Juan. "We can make a difference!"



Gen you make

There are many ways that you can make a difference.

In a small community, such as your family, you can show your loved ones you care for them by helping with the recycling or doing the dishes.

In a larger community, such as your school, you can make a difference by standing up to a bully.



Imagine you had a chance to change your community! You could change something big or small. Your change must improve people's lives. Your decision would be final for one day. After one day, your community would vote on whether to keep your idea. What would you do to make a difference?

Making a difference

at home

You can make a big difference at home by doing something without being asked.

Maybe you have toys you no longer use. You could collect them in a box to give away. You could tidy up a messy bookshelf. At dinnertime, you could set the table.





Learning to **compromise** is another way to make a difference. Sometimes two people want to use the computer or watch television at the same time. This can lead

to an argument.



Making a difference at school

One way to make a difference at school is by showing everyone **respect**. When you show respect to your teacher and fellow students, you help make school a great place for everyone. Good citizens treat everyone as important members of the community. They listen when others are speaking.



Good citizens also take action. If they see a problem, they try to fix it. If they feel something is unfair, they speak up. You can be a good citizen and make a

difference in your school today!



You can speak up and hold a **protest**.



You can tell a bully to stop.



Nescholino od

Mada

There are people in your community who need help.
Some kids need clothing.
Others need school supplies to start school. Some seniors need help with

yard work or shoveling snow.

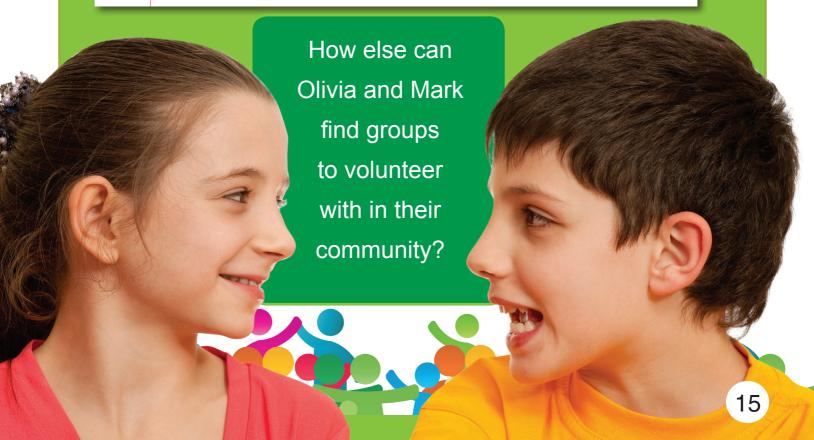


There are many groups that help people in your community. You can donate money or **volunteer** to help with these groups.

What do you think?

Olivia and Mark want to help people in their community. They decide to find a group they can volunteer with. Olivia and Mark plan to find the groups that are in their community by:

- Using the Internet
- Looking up information at the library
- 3 Asking their teacher or school principal





You can make a difference for people around the world!

You can hold a **fundraiser** and use the money to help a community in Africa get clean water.

You can help **refugees** who come to your country by being their friend. Refugees are citizens who must leave their own country because of war or severe weather.









You can suggest to your teacher that your whole class should make a difference. Each student in your class can discuss a way to help others. Everyone should get a chance to speak and share an idea. Your teacher can write all the ideas on the board. Then everyone in the class will **vote** for the idea they like best.

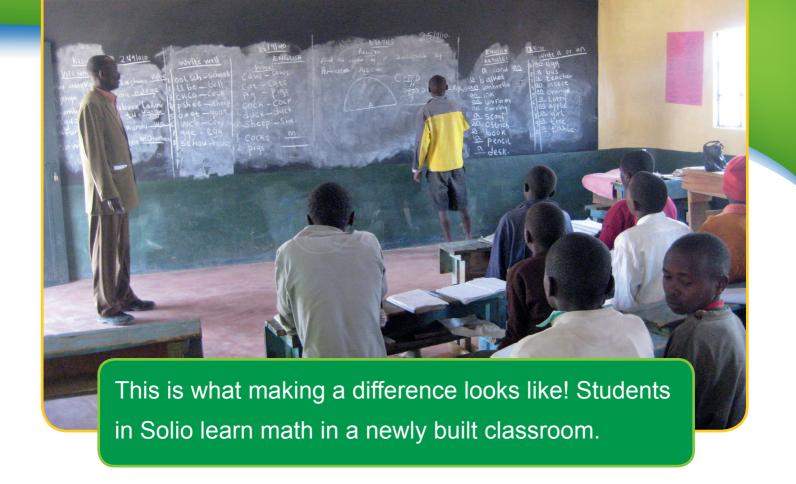
How would you like to make a difference?

Bids Make a Difference

Sometimes you can make a difference doing something you love. Abigail Lupi loves to sing and dance. She began performing at a local senior home. Her shows made the senior citizens so happy that Abigail decided to start a group called CareGirlz. CareGirlz sing and dance at different senior homes and children's hospitals. Now Abigail is making many people happy!

Do you love
working on
computers? How
can you use this
skill or one of
your other talents
to help others?





Sometimes you can make a difference on the other side of the world. Students from Ottawa, Canada learned there were students in Solio, Kenya who only had dusty tents for classrooms. This made it hard for the students in Solio to do their schoolwork. The Canadian students decided they wanted to help. They held a fundraiser and earned enough money to build classrooms for the Solio students.



Lets Make a Difference

Citizens decide how to take action in their communities by speaking up and listening to other people's ideas. It is important to respect what everyone has to say. Even if you do not agree with an idea, you may still learn something from it.





You have seen that kids can make a difference in their communities and in the world. Making a difference is part of being a good citizen. Whether helping to water your family's garden or raising money to buy books for a school in another country, there are many ways that you can help others.

How will you make a difference?

Learning More

Books

Hanson, Anders. *No Bullies Alowed! The Kids' Book of Dealing with Bullies*. Super Sandcastle, 2014.

Kopp, Megan. Be the Change for the Environment. Crabtree Publishing, 2015.

Web Sites

Find out how you can make a difference here: www.kidscanmakeadifference.org/

Learn about a community project where kindness rules:

http://ripplekindness.org/community-project/for-kids/how-you-can-make-a-difference/

You can make a difference for children with disabilities: www.marchofdimes.ca/EN/programs/kcmd/Pages/KCMD.aspx

Find out how you can help children around the world: www.kidsgoglobal.net/

Mords to Know

citizens (SIT-i-senz) **noun** People who belong to a community

community (CU-mu-ni-tee) noun A place where people live, work, and play

compromise (KOM-pruh-mahyz) noun An agreement where both sides give up something

fundraiser (FUHND-rey-zer) noun A gathering held to raise money for a cause

protest (PROH-test) noun The act of showing you do not agree with something

refugee (ref-yoo-JEE) noun A person who must leave their home country because of war or severe weather

respect (ri-SPEKT) noun To show you value the rights of others by following rules

volunteer (vol-uhn-TEER) verb To offer to help and not expect to be paid

vote (VOHT) verb Make a choice by marking a ballot or some other method such as raising your hand

A noun is a person, place, or thing.

A verb is an action word that tells you what someone or something does.



citizen 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 21 community 4, 5, 6, 8, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 fundraiser 16, 19 Lupi, Abigail 18 Ottawa 19
refugees 16
Solio 19
volunteer 14, 15

About the author

Jessica Pegis is a writer and editor living in Toronto.

She has written several books for teens and children in the areas of science, citizenship, and media awareness.

