



Keeping the Republic

American Heritage Discussion Series for Learners with Littles



Our Learning Journey

Civic Virtue & Character

Being a helpful member of the
family

Being a caring friend

Being a respectful member of a
learning community

Being a responsible citizen

Civic Virtue

- **Civic virtue** means putting the good of the community ahead of your own selfish wants.
- **Community** means a group of people with a shared values or goals. All Americans are part of the shared community of the United States. Other communities can be your neighborhood, religious group, sports team, or other interest.



Civic Virtue

- George Washington is the American example of civic virtue. At the end of the Revolutionary War, many people wanted him to become king of the United States. However, he wanted to strengthen the power of government by the people. He would not be a king. He resigned his job as general of the Continental Army and retired to his farm.
- This is a painting by early American artist, John Trumbull. It is now in a big picture room in the United States Capitol where Congress meets today. Trumbull made the chair behind Washington look like a throne to show that Washington was turning his back on kingly power and strengthening the power of Congress.



Civic Virtue & Character

Civic virtue also means we develop good character, meaning we develop the way we choose to think, feel, and behave in a good way. Here are some qualities of good character that can also benefit the community.

- **Courage**—The ability to do what is right, even when you are scared. Doing the right thing is not always popular
- **Integrity**—Telling the truth, exposing lies, and keeping promises.
- **Respect**—Believing others have worth and being willing to defend their equal rights. We also must have respect for ourselves.
- **Responsibility**—We must take care of ourselves, our families, and fellow citizens.

Question: Can you think of an example of someone acting with courage, integrity, respect, or responsibility?

Activity preview: Color pages that show qualities of civic virtue and good character.

List adapted from Bill of Rights Institute Civic Virtues and Vices



Image from Character Education Resource Center at University of San Diego

I Can Help in My Family

We first learn to live with others in families. All families are a type of a community. Some families have lots of people and some families have a few people. In each case, it is possible to help one another.

Question: What are some ways you can be helpful in your family?

Activity preview: Color a house that represents your home. Then make a card for each person in your family. Then put them in the home. Think of ways you can be helpful in your family.




I Can Be a Caring Friend

We also build community by being a good friend. A friend is someone outside your family who cares about you and you care about them. Being a caring friend means showing kindness to others. There are many ways you can be a good friend.

Question: What are some ways you can be a good friend?

Activity preview: Look at the pictures showing the many ways we can be a good friend.





If you are 1 years old, 2 years old, 3 years old, or 4 years old, go to these activity tables now:

1. Coloring table
2. Make a house with your family inside
3. See the ways you can be a caring friend

I can be a respectful member of my learning community

We are also part of learning communities. Some children learn inside a school building. Other children learn at home and sometimes join other children for special learning experiences. Wherever you learn, we can help to make the learning community a good place for everyone to learn.

Question: What are some ways you can make your learning community a good place to learn?



I can be a respectful member of my learning community

We can think of our learning community as a flower garden. Many of the flowers are different in their own way. Some are orange with lots of petals and some are purple with a few petals. No matter the differences among the flowers, they help to make the overall garden beautiful.

In our learning community, each learner is unique and helps to make the overall learning community a wonderful place to be. Respecting others and their differences is the key.

Question: How can you help respect for differences grow in your learning community?

Activity preview: Choose a flower. Write on the flower how you can help respect for differences grow in your learning community.



I can be a responsible citizen

A **citizen** is a person who is granted full rights and responsibilities as a member of a political community. This political community is also known as a country.

There are many responsibilities of American citizenship. Here are a few:

- Support and defend the Constitution
- Respect the law
- Learn about problems and help fix them
- Pay taxes



I can be a responsible citizen

We are citizens of both the country of the United States and the state of Utah.

Utah is known as the beehive state. This is why a beehive is on our new state flag. In beehives, bees work together and live together in cooperation.

Question: How can we live well together with others in our state and in our country?

Activity preview: Make a kindness bee that says:

- Kindness helps me BEE a helpful member of my family
- Kindness helps me BEE a caring friend
- Kindness helps me BEE a respectful member of my community
- Kindness helps me BEE a responsible citizen.



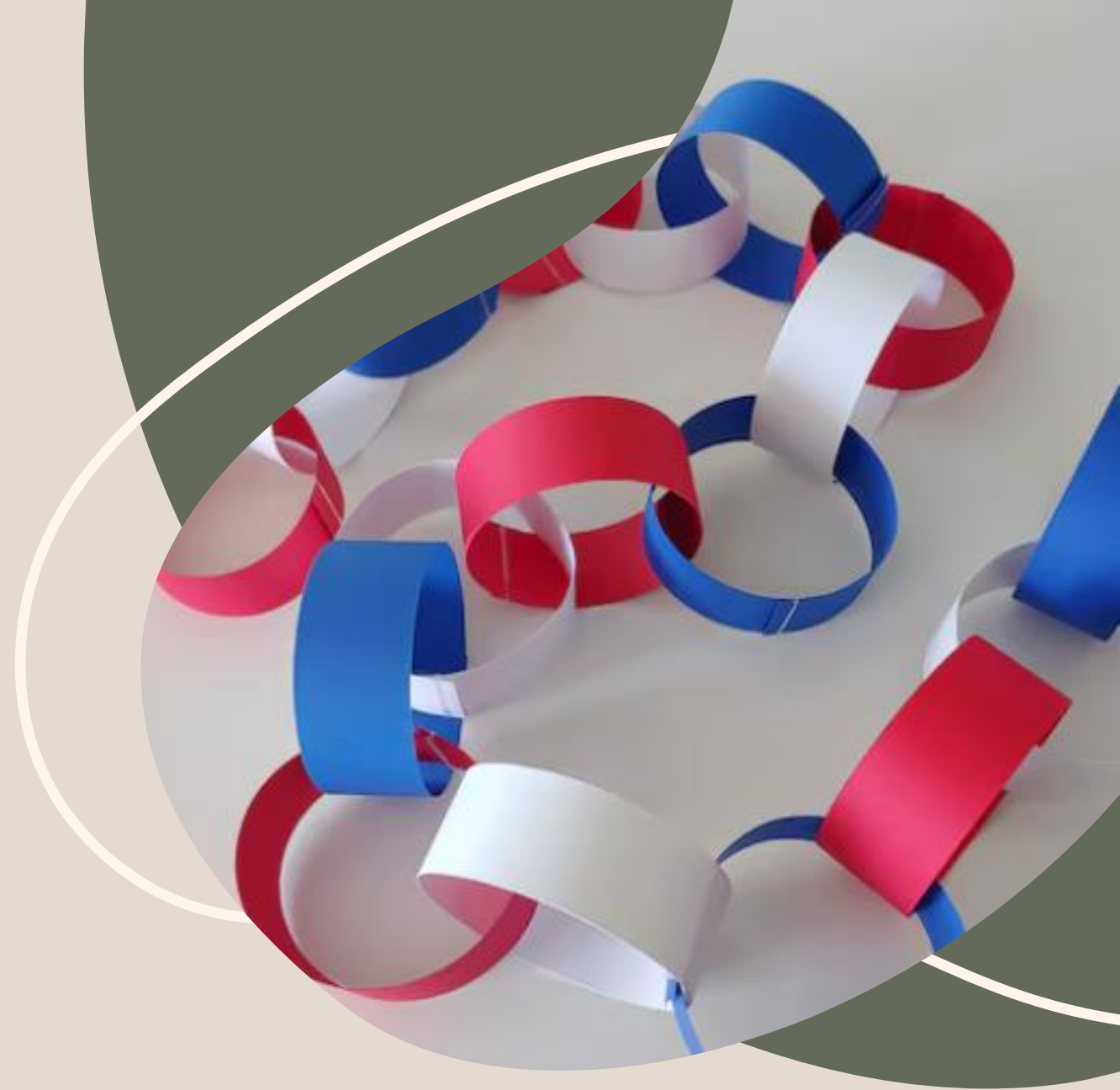
Helping Chain

Before you go today, add four of your own links to our paper chain. On the first link, write a way you can :

1. Be helpful in your family.

Then on the next links write:

2. How you can be a caring friend.
3. How you can be a respectful member of your learning community
4. How you can be a responsible citizen



The background features a light grey base with several organic, rounded shapes in muted colors: a large brown shape on the left, a green shape in the top right, and a light grey shape in the middle right. A white silhouette of a pine branch is visible in the top left corner. A white wavy line curves across the bottom right area.

Choose Stations