

NOWHEREISLAND

EXPLORER PACK

Explorer Pack 2: Citizenship and Nowhereisland

Nowhereisland is a real place, as well as a place to experiment. This makes it an ideal context for students to feel like they are making a tangible contribution, whilst still playing with ideas and new kinds of thinking. Nowhereisland Explorer Packs can be used for quick ideas, for short discussions in tutor sessions, or for larger projects. You can even use the outcomes of these activities as entries into the Resident Thinker competition.

This Explorer Pack shows how you and your class can become citizens of Nowhereisland and contribute to the Nowhereisland Constitution. Along the way you will discuss what it means to be a Nowhereisland citizen with some ideas for practical and creative activities.

If you are using this pack to plan an in depth project, you can combine some of the activities in this pack with your own approaches to teaching citizenship. This pack is not intended to replace your citizenship teaching but instead to complement some of your current teaching methods. If you are not already aware of it, a useful source of curriculum information and activities can be found at www.citizenshipteacher.co.uk.

The discussion ideas and activity suggestions could be adapted for any group, and anyone of any age is welcome to become a Nowhereisland citizen, but most of the following information is aimed at KS3 and KS4 students.

Preparation

Have a good look at the Nowhereisland website. Start with the About The Project section, which has some introductory information, and then have a look at the Logbook, in particular the entries for September 2011, during the Arctic Expedition and the formation of the Declaration when Nowhereisland became a new nation and it began to gather citizens. A very important section to look at is the Citizenship section within The Embassy, which has background information on how these issues connect with Nowhereisland, as well as more information about the Declaration. Carl Gardner's Resident Thinker article (Week 21, 29 January 2012) is also useful to read in relation to work you may develop about constitutions.

Watch and download any related Nowhereisland resources such as the Nowhereisland animation, PowerPoint slides, Nowhereisland trailer film and IO ideas and a secret mission to help you introduce the project to your class. You can find links to these on the Schools Resources page.

Getting started in the classroom: What is Nowhereisland?

The **Nowhereisland animation** has been made by primary school children. It is a good way to introduce the project to KS1 and KS2.

The **PowerPoint** slides and notes can also be used to introduce the project. It is recommended that you edit this to suit the needs of your class and the theme of citizenship.

The **Nowhereisland introductory film** is a short trailer and gives an excellent overview, especially for KS3 and KS4.

10 ideas and a secret mission was drawn by best-selling author Keri Smith as her Resident Thinker contribution to Nowhereisland. Her brilliant drawings and combination of fun and thoughtful ideas make another good starting point, especially if combined with PowerPoint slides and one of the videos. *10 ideas and secret mission* can be seen as creative ways of becoming a more active, knowledgeable Nowhereisland citizen.

Becoming a citizen of Nowhereisland

Most citizens join as individuals, using their own email address and home address. This may not be possible, or very easy to organise for a group of students, especially for KS1 and KS2, so we are happy for groups to sign up and receive certificates by post to the school. You will need to supply names for each student, the name of the class and their Year Group and a postal address for certificates. Please send this information to us by email. Find details in the Contacts section of the website or the Sign Up section in Citizenship. We will register the names as citizens and send the certificates to the class. We'll use the email address you used to send us the details as the main contact email for the whole group, unless you say otherwise.

If individual students wish to receive personal updates on the project then they should either register themselves directly on the website or provide their email address alongside their name in the email you send us.

As part of the citizen sign up process you can introduce some or all of the following ideas for discussion:

1. There are no barriers to becoming a citizen of Nowhereisland. Any age, anyone, living anywhere can become a citizen. How does this differ from how people become citizens of other nations and how is it similar? What difference does this make to your attitude to being a Nowherian? You may wish to refer here to the official Home Office Life in the UK test, undertaken by all those wishing to become a British Citizen. Can your class pass the test? Find examples online.
2. You do not have to give up any other citizenship to become a citizen of Nowhereisland. Can you be a citizen of more than one nation? As a Nowherian, you are an individual, connected to a network of citizens across the world? What are the ways you could become more connected to these other Nowherians?
3. What kind of citizen can you be as a Nowherian? Passive? Active? Global? Insurgent? For discussions of what these kinds of citizenship involve see the various definitions, quotes, examples and resources in the Citizenship section of The Embassy. How can you make a contribution and make a difference? How does this relate to ways you can be an active citizen?
4. The Nowhereisland Declaration was written by the 2011 Arctic Expedition Team. You can read the actual text in the Declaration section of the website along with a video of the moment of declaration and there is a picture of the hand-drawn and signed document in the PowerPoint slides. Students should read this as part of the process of becoming a citizen so they are aware of the origins of the Nowhereisland and what its founders hoped for the new nation.

Contributing to the Nowhereisland Constitution

Once you are a Nowhereisland citizen, the main way you can contribute is to make proposals to be added to the Nowhereisland Constitution. A useful source of information in relation to this is the Writing A Constitution section of the website in the Citizenship area of The Embassy.

The Nowhereisland Constitution is the world's first open-access constitution. All citizens can make proposals and all proposals will be added to the constitution and then they can be ranked according to the 'likes' and 'dislikes'.

This is an engaging process for students to take part in. Teachers may wish to use this as part of a wider discussion and other activities about constitutions, democracy and citizenship. Here is a suggested way of contributing to the constitution:

1. Read the proposals made so far. You can view the proposals in the order they have been made and in order of popularity.
2. 'Like' or 'dislike' as many of the proposals as you can. A class can only 'like' or 'dislike' one proposal and so you will have to decide the best way to make your group decision (a majority, or two-thirds majority or some other variation).
3. Discuss the characteristics of these proposals made by other people. What are the concerns of the citizens? How does this compare with other constitutions such as those of the United States or South Africa?
4. Decide a way of making proposals from your class. One way of doing this is to work in small groups and write the proposals so that everyone in the group agrees with every word of the proposal. This may take time to work out! Make some proposals concerning the way Nowhereisland should be governed (rights and responsibilities) and some proposals about a specific issue or concern (e.g. student fees, social inequality).
5. Add your agreed proposals to the constitution.

Active and insurgent citizenship: a creative activity to make your opinions visible

Political protest has a long history of using posters, placards and slogans to make the opinions of citizens visible either as a group or as part of a demonstration. In recent well-publicised protests such as the Occupy movement and the student protests in 2011, placards have played a major role and have been notable for their humorous and informative slogans.

This activity uses the Nowhereisland Constitution as a starting point for making posters and placards. The results could be displayed in a prominent place in your school or local community, as well as being displayed as artwork.

1. Look at and discuss images of political posters, banners and placards, as well as images of artists' work that has been influenced by slogans and protest statements. You will find example images in the PowerPoint.
2. Look at the Nowhereisland Constitution and as many of the proposals as possible. Each student selects a proposal that they agree with, or they find interesting in some way. Or they write their own and add it to the constitution. Write down the proposal you have selected, along with the name of the person that proposed it and their number of likes/dislikes. (You may want to use all this information on your poster).

3. You now need to use this proposal for the basis of the poster/placard. Undertake some further research into different styles of placard and poster, from the ornate and highly crafted trade union banners to the improvised, but still effective, homemade cardboard sign. Remember to look at other artists who have used slogans and statements within their work such as Mark Titchner, Jenny Holzer and Bob and Roberta Smith.

What materials will you use? They could be cloth and stitched letters, cardboard and marker pen, lino cut text or digital print?

Consider a context for the final work. Will it be fixed to a fence, pinned to a noticeboard, held aloft at a demo, or displayed in a window? Do you want your chosen proposal to be where no one will miss it, or in an unexpected place?

4. Once the group has produced the posters and placards display them for all to see. This might be in one place or form a trail of slogans through the school.

Resident Thinker competition

You can send photos of your posters or placards as entries to the Resident Thinker competition, Speak To The Nation (closes 30 March 2012). See the Resident Thinker section on the website for details.

Sharing your work

Even if you don't want to enter the above competition (or miss the deadline), the Nowhereisland team would really like to hear about what you get up to. You can send us pictures, scans, photocopies or post anything to the Nowhereisland Facebook page. You can find details in the Contact section of the website. We may even be able to include examples of your work in the mobile museum, also called The Embassy, which travels with Nowhereisland on the south west journey.