

Comenius Project

2013 – 2015

Magic bricks for European Citizenship






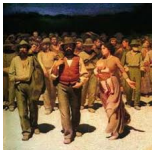











CLASSE III A – ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO - VOLTERRA



THE WORDS OF CITIZENSHIP

- **EQUALITY:** All human beings are **EQUAL** in rights before the law, without distinction of any kind, such as sex, race, language, political belief, personal or social origin (ART.3 Italian Constitution).
- **RESPECT:** is at the basis of people society: respect towards one another, towards environment and towards whoever is different from us.
- **STATE:** every citizen belongs to a **COUNTRY** which guarantees his or her rights by means of Constitution.
- **WORK:** everyone should have a job, the right to **WORK**, in order to obtain a remuneration ensuring an existence worth of human dignity.
- **FREEDOM:** Everyone has the right to **FREEDOM** of opinion and expression, in respect of the other citizens and of property both private and public.

And now the game “IF THIS WORD WERE.....”

	AN HISTORICAL DATE	A SYMBOLIC PLACE	A CHARACTER
RESPECT	11 th DECEMBER 1997 	GLAND SWITZERLAND 	CARLO PETRINI 
WORK	1 st MAY 1886 	AN 18 th CENTURY FACTORY 	KARL MARX 
STATE	17 th MARCH 1861 	CARIGNANO PALACE - TURIN 	GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI 
EQUALITY	2 nd / 3 rd JUNE 1946 	A COURTROOM 	NELSON MANDELA 
FREEDOM	27 th JANUARY 1945 	THE BASTILLE 	ABRAHAM LINCOLN 

RESPECT (towards the environment)

A historical date - 11th December 1997: on that day in Kyoto, in Japan, a protocol was signed in which more than 180 countries pledged to reduce the emission of polluting gases, such as carbon dioxide, to reduce global warming.

A symbolic place - Gland in Switzerland: this small city is the headquarters of the WWF, the largest international organization for the defense and conservation of the environment and endangered species.

A character - Carlo Petrini: the founder of Slow Food, an international movement engaged in the defense of environmental diversity and traditional agriculture in every part of the world. In 2008 the English newspaper *The Guardian* placed him amongst the 50 men who can save the planet.

WORK

Date - the 1st of May 1886: the celebration recalls the workers' struggles, in particular the serious events that took place in Chicago where, in early May, there was a strike at the entrance of a factory of agricultural machinery; the police fired on the protesters killing two. In memory of these events many countries in the world celebrate the first of May as Labour Day.

Place - an 18th century English factory: the symbol of the Industrial Revolution and the first example of work in the modern sense, namely with machines.

Character - Karl Marx: he was a philosopher who defended the workers' rights from exploitation by the capitalists in the 19th century.

COUNTRY

Date - the 17th of March 1861: the beginning of the Italian Parliament Committee. The Kingdom of Italy was born.

Place - Carignano Palace, in Turin: the home of the first Italian Parliament.

Character - Joseph Garibaldi: the general who contributed to the unity of Italy, liberating it from foreign power.

EQUALITY

Date - 2nd/3rd June 1946: for the first time women had the right to vote in Italy, by means of a referendum, in order to choose between the monarchy and a republic, thus ensuring equal rights with men.

Place - a courtroom: this place means that we are all equal before the law and we are therefore entitled to the same treatment.

Characters - Nelson Mandela: he fought against racial discrimination in South Africa (apartheid), in order to have human rights for the Blacks.

FREEDOM

Date - 27th of January, 1945. The Russian troops entered Auschwitz concentration camp, and freed the Jewish prisoners who were still alive.

Place - the Bastille. The attack on the Bastille symbolizes the beginning of the French Revolution. As a result, the citizen and man's rights, such as freedom of thought, religion and expression, were obtained.

Character - Lincoln, the American President who stopped slavery, defeating the Southern States (The War of Secession) which wanted to maintain it.

WHAT IS THE ADDITIONAL BENEFIT OF THE EUROPEAN COSTITUION COMPARED TO SOME NATIONAL COSTITUIONS?

The additional benefit is the possibility to move, live, travel in other countries with no different passports, identity cards or residents permits; surely it is better to move to Great Britain or France then to America or China because there we can have the same rights we have in our country.

The European Constitution let us understand all of us are EQUAL human beings, even if we've got different languages, cultures and habits.

The European Constitution guarantees the same democratic rights and obligations in every country of the Union.



Infact the European Constitution has been written and approved by all the States which take part in the Union, while the National ones have been written and approved only by each single Nation.

We can buy everything we want (if legal!) in every country of the Union.

WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL EFFORTS TO BECOME AN ACTIVE CITIZEN?

I'm trying to respect the environment and all living creatures, to waste less food and water as so many people are starving and dying of thirst all over the world; besides every year I buy some food and by the COOP I can help the people in need.

I don't write on the desks or on the walls; when I go hunting I pick up the cartridges after shooting, without leaving them on the ground like many

I'm trying to pollute less, giving my used clothes to voluntary organizations.

I'm participating to public events and demonstrations, buying fair trade products.

I'm trying not to waste the earth's resources or the food, water and electrical energy.

I'm sorting and collecting my waste (recycling) avoiding throwing papers on the ground, paying attention to the things I buy and consume.

I'm respecting the "res publica" such as Schools, benches and monuments.

