Objectives:
This activity is designed to introduce the concept of the environmental citizen: a proactive member of the community who understands the importance of being a steward of the planet’s limited natural resources and is committed to going beyond private actions by using civic actions to sustain them. (Reference ‘Attributes of an Environmental Citizen’)

The nurturing of the environmental citizen is the true goal of environmental education.

Materials:
One large sheet of newsprint or chart paper per small group
Markers

Procedure:
1. Divide your class into small groups of about 3-6.
2. Give each group one sheet of newsprint and 2-3 colors of marker.
3. Each group should begin with a head and torso drawn on their paper.
4. Ask the large group – “What is a citizen?” Discuss responses. “Now imagine you want to be an Environmental Citizen – what would you need? (Physical, mental, emotional attributes – real or whimsical) Working in your small groups, use your paper to create an Environmental Citizen. Give him/her the physical and mental attributes you think would be necessary. Be sure to label each part. For example, everybody needs a mouth. But how would an Environmental Citizen use their mouth?”
5. Give the groups at least 10-15 minutes to work. You may need to move between groups, offering encouragement, helping them expand on their ideas, and reminding them to add explanation labels that will help them make a presentation about their Citizen.
6. Give each group a chance to do an oral presentation on their Environmental Citizen.
7. Post the Citizens around the wall. Groups can continue to add attributes later, if desired.

Some typical attributes (it is amazing what children will think of – no two Citizens will be alike!):
- A heart to care
- A brain to analyze community issues
- Hands to reach out to others/ to hold a shovel/ to write letters
- A pocket for seed packets/ to hold a notebook
- Soft shoes to tread lightly/ sturdy shoes for walking through the community
- Extra hair to give to birds for nests
- A nose to smell pollution/to smell trouble/to smell the flowers

Another option with a classroom of younger children is to build an Environmental Citizen together using the blackboard. Young children often say their Environmental Citizen needs a friend to help them – so this option allows the space to draw additional friends and helpers!