Summary: Citizens Make a Difference

Citizens Can Help
Every day, people in your community help one another. Helping others is part of being a good citizen. There are many ways you can be a good citizen. You can speak up to make things fair. You can obey laws or help change them to make them more fair. You can help keep parks clean. Good citizens work together to make their communities better places to live. Some people help by working as volunteers. Solving community problems together is a way to show public virtue.

Students Help Others
Some Arizona students wanted to help their community. They shared ideas and talked to community leaders. They decided to build a house for a family in their town. The students worked with Habitat for Humanity, a volunteer group that helps families build houses. First the students made a plan. Next, they raised money for supplies and materials. They washed cars, sold T-shirts, and held a dance. The students also asked the community to help. Businesses gave them money and supplies. Carpenters and painters taught them how to build and paint. Volunteers helped build the house. The family helped build, too. Everyone showed public virtue.

Before You Read
Find and underline each vocabulary word.

public virtue noun, doing something for the good of the community

volunteer noun, a person who works for free, without pay

After You Read
In what ways can students practice good citizenship? Circle the sentences that tell you the answer.

What steps did students take before starting to build the house? Highlight four sentences that tell the answer.