

A faint, sepia-toned world map serves as the background for the text. It features latitude and longitude lines, with labels for continents and oceans in a classic, slightly stylized font. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean, with North and South America visible on the left and Europe and Africa on the right.

What does it mean to be a “Global Citizen”? In my mind a global citizen is a person who tries to do good. This person may or may not have travelled around the globe, but this person works to help people understand differences. Some of this understanding could be for major differences, like movements like the Thirst Project in Africa and Black Lives Matter in the United States attempt to do. So maybe a global citizen is someone who goes to different countries to learn about that country’s ethnicities, cultures, borders, customs, traditions, and heritage and tries to help solve that nation’s issues (like terrorism in France, poverty in Venezuela, or disorder in Afghanistan).

But being a global citizen could also mean getting to know those differences, appreciating those differences, and honoring those differences. For example, Great Britain created the idea of human rights through the Magna Carta. Not only should that fact be remembered and honored, it should be used to help promote those ideas around the globe. On the other hand, the Holocaust and persecution of Jews in Germany was horrific. That fact should be remembered as well, but instead of being honored it should be used as a lesson to make sure mistakes like that don’t happen again.

But perhaps most of all, being a global citizen means to take what we’ve learned from our travels and to bring it back home. To take what we’ve learned about different countries’ customs, cultures, and traditions and bring that learning to our friends and family and community back home. If we can accomplish that, we can learn to respect people everywhere, whether it means in your home country or a foreign one.

So, perhaps being a global citizen means taking the big things we learn from others, other people or other countries, and doing small things like helping your neighbor or picking up trash, or just small everyday things could be a big help and make a difference. Treat others the way you would want to be treated (with kindness, care, and love). Respect all people. Honor the history and achievements that have been made.