

Name: _____

Date: _____



What Is Civics?



Civics is the study of how government works and how citizens participate in their community and country.



1. THINK ABOUT IT

1. What does it mean to be a good citizen?

2. Why is it important to learn about government and citizenship?

2. CIVICS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Match each action on the left with why it matters on the right. Write the correct letter in the box.

ACTIONS

- ☐ 1. Voting
- ☐ 2. Obeying laws
- ☐ 3. Helping in the community
- ☐ 4. Staying informed
- ☐ 5. Respecting others



WHY IT MATTERS

- A. It helps create a safe and fair community for everyone.
- B. It helps you understand issues and make smart choices.
- C. It gives everyone a say in decisions that affect our lives.
- D. It builds stronger communities and helps those in need.
- E. It shows kindness and helps people work and live together.

3. AT SCHOOL, AT HOME, IN MY COMMUNITY

Write or draw examples of how you can be an active citizen in each setting.

AT SCHOOL



AT HOME



IN MY COMMUNITY



4. REFLECTION

How can learning civics help you make a difference?





★ BE INFORMED. GET INVOLVED. MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ★

Name: _____

Date: _____



Branches of Government

The U.S. government has three branches—
Legislative, Executive, and Judicial.
Each branch has different jobs and powers
to keep our country running fairly.



1. KNOW THE BRANCHES

LEGISLATIVE



Main job: _____

Example: _____

EXECUTIVE



Main job: _____

Example: _____

JUDICIAL



Main job: _____

Example: _____

2. MATCH THE BRANCH TO THE JOB

Write the correct letter next to each job.

- ☐ 1. Writes and passes laws
- ☐ 2. Carries out the laws
- ☐ 3. Interprets laws and decides cases
- ☐ 4. Vetoes (rejects) a bill
- ☐ 5. Declares laws that break the Constitution invalid

A. Legislative Branch

B. Executive Branch

C. Judicial Branch



3. WHY THREE BRANCHES?

Why is it important to divide power among the three branches of government?



4. REFLECTION

Which branch do you think has the biggest job and why?



Name: _____

Date: _____



Checks and Balances

Checks and balances are the system that keeps one branch of government from becoming too powerful.



1. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Explain checks and balances in your own words.



2. WHO CAN CHECK WHO?

Write the correct letter next to each example.

- ☐ 1. The President vetoes a bill.
- ☐ 2. Congress overrides a veto.
- ☐ 3. The Supreme Court declares a law unconstitutional.
- ☐ 4. The President appoints judges.
- ☐ 5. The Senate approves appointments.

- A. Legislative Branch
- B. Executive Branch
- C. Judicial Branch



3. HOW IT WORKS

In each column, write how that branch can check or limit another branch.

LEGISLATIVE



How this branch can check another branch:

EXECUTIVE



How this branch can check another branch:

JUDICIAL



How this branch can check another branch:



4. REFLECTION

Why are checks and balances important in a democracy?





★ POWER SHOULD BE SHARED. CHECKS AND BALANCES MATTER. ★

Name: _____

Date: _____

Rights and Responsibilities



Rights are the freedoms people have.
Responsibilities are the duties or actions people should do to help their community and respect others.

1. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

1. What are rights? Explain in your own words.

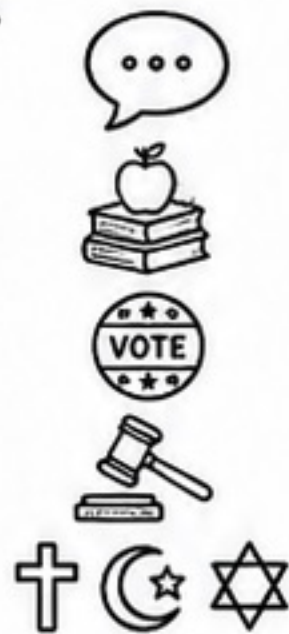
2. What are responsibilities? Explain in your own words.

2. MATCH THE RIGHT TO THE RESPONSIBILITY

Draw a line or write the correct letter to match each right with its responsibility.

RIGHTS

- ☐ 1. Freedom of speech
- ☐ 2. Right to an education
- ☐ 3. Right to vote
- ☐ 4. Right to a fair trial
- ☐ 5. Freedom of religion



RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Respect others' opinions
- B. Follow school rules and participate in learning
- C. Stay informed and vote responsibly
- D. Follow laws and serve fairly if called for jury duty
- E. Respect other people's beliefs



3. REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

Write or draw examples of rights and responsibilities in each place.

AT SCHOOL



AT HOME



IN MY COMMUNITY



4. REFLECTION

Why is it important to balance rights and responsibilities?



★ KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. DO YOUR PART. ★

Name: _____

Date: _____



How a Bill Becomes a Law



A bill is an idea for a law. Before it becomes a law, it must go through several steps in Congress and be approved by the President.



1. BILL OR LAW?

1. What is a bill?

2. What is the difference between a bill and a law?

2. PUT THE STEPS IN ORDER

Number the boxes 1–6 to show the correct order of how a bill becomes a law.

- ☐ The bill is introduced in Congress.
- ☐ A committee studies the bill.
- ☐ The House and Senate vote on the bill.
- ☐ The President signs the bill (or vetoes it).
- ☐ Both houses approve the same version.
- ☐ The bill becomes a law.



3. WHO DOES WHAT?

Match each role on the left with its responsibility on the right. Draw a line to connect them.

Congress

Introduces, debates, and votes on bills

Committee

Studies the bill and decides whether it should move forward

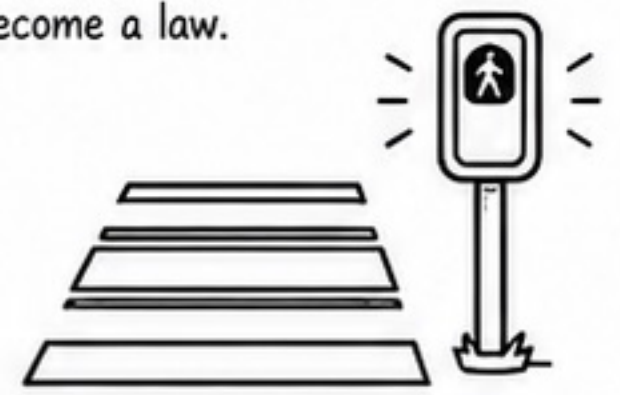
President

Signs or vetoes the bill

4. FOLLOW THE JOURNEY

A student wants safer crosswalks near school. Write 2–3 sentences explaining how that idea could become a law.





5. REFLECTION

Why do you think it is important for a bill to go through many steps before becoming a law?





Name: _____

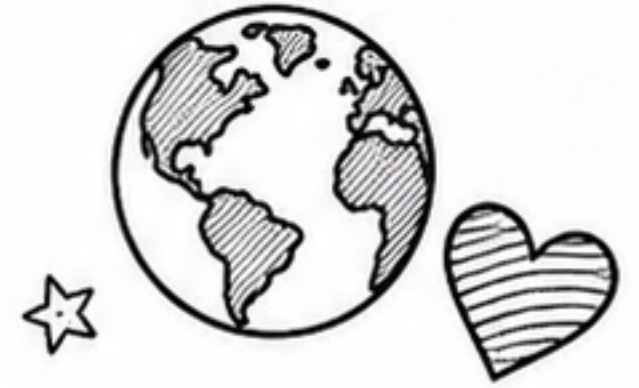
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Civics in Action



Civics in action means using what you know about government, citizenship, and community to make a difference in everyday life.



1. WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?

1. What does it mean to be an active citizen?

2. How can kids your age make a difference in their school or community?

2. REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS

Read each situation. How is civics being used?
Write your answer on the line.



1. The student council surveys students about lunch options and shares the results with the school administration.



2. Neighbors organize a weekend cleanup at the local park to keep the community safe and beautiful.



3. A class learns about a local election issue and talks about how it could affect their community.



4. Students discuss a new school rule and share their ideas respectfully before the final decision is made.

3. AT SCHOOL, AT HOME, IN MY COMMUNITY

Write or draw examples of civics in action in each place.



AT SCHOOL



AT HOME



IN MY COMMUNITY

4. TAKE ACTION

Check the actions you can take to practice civics in your everyday life.



- ☐ Help others and show respect
- ☐ Stay informed about issues
- ☐ Follow rules and laws

- ☐ Speak up respectfully
- ☐ Volunteer in my community
- ☐ Vote when I am eligible



5. REFLECTION

What is one issue you care about, and how could you take action to help?





LEARN IT. LIVE IT. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

