

Social Studies Answer Key: Weeks 13–16

Answers for objective items are given. For open items, use the Look for list. Accept reasonable answers in the child's own words; spelling does not count against content.

Week 13: What is Government?

1. A group of people chosen to make rules and do jobs for a community.
2. Any two: fixes roads, keeps parks clean, runs the library, pays for fire stations, pays for public schools.
3. Money that people chip in so everyone can share services.
4. The people who live in the town.

Sort. Government: fixing potholes, making laws, running the public library, keeping town parks clean. Family or business: making dinner at home, baking bread at a bakery, selling shoes at a store, washing the family car.

5. Open.

Look for:

- Recognizes that roads might not get fixed, or people would have to fix them alone.
- Connects the answer to government doing shared jobs paid for by taxes.

Scoring: Developing / Approaching / Proficient / Exemplary. Proficient: answers items 1 to 4 from the passage, sorts at least 7 of 8 jobs, and gives a reasoned answer to item 5.

Week 14: Local, State & National Gov't

Chart. Leader: mayor, governor, president. Group that makes laws: town council, state legislature, Congress. One job: local trash pickup (given); state examples: driver's licenses, state parks, state roads; national examples: the army, printing money, the mail.

1-6. 1 L, 2 S, 3 N, 4 L, 5 S, 6 N.

7. President.

8. Open.

Look for:

- Some jobs affect the whole country (money, the mail, the army).
- One town cannot make rules for every other town.

9. The names of your family's current mayor (or town leader) and governor.

Scoring: Developing / Approaching / Proficient / Exemplary. Proficient: fills at least 7 of 9 chart cells, labels at least 5 of 6 concerns correctly, and explains why a national government is needed.

Week 15: American Symbols

1-4. 1-b, 2-c, 3-d, 4-a.

5. The 50 states.

6. The 13 original colonies (the first 13 states).

7. The bald eagle (on the Great Seal, on the back of the dollar bill).

- 8 and 9.** Open.

Look for:

- A real place for the flag (school, post office, a game, a home).
- The drawing is labeled and the symbol is matched to a sensible idea (freedom, welcome, strength, our country).
- A reason for showing it to a visitor.

Scoring: Developing / Approaching / Proficient / Exemplary. Proficient: matches all four symbols, explains the stars and stripes, and completes the frame with a correct meaning.

Week 16: Voting & Elections

Tally chart. Apples: 6 votes. Pears: 4 votes.

1. Apples won, with 2 more votes.

Steps. 1 Candidates tell their reasons. 2 People listen and think. 3 People vote in private. 4 The votes are counted.

2. Open.

Look for:

- Everyone gets one vote and an equal say.
- The choice with the most votes wins, and the other side accepts the result.

3. 18.

4. Open.

Look for:

• A real action a child can do: write a letter to the mayor, pick up litter, share ideas at a family meeting.

Scoring: Developing / Approaching / Proficient / Exemplary. Proficient: counts both totals correctly, orders the steps, and explains that voting gives everyone an equal say.

Weeks 13–16: Vocabulary and Big Ideas

1-10. 1 government, 2 mayor, 3 governor, 4 president, 5 taxes, 6 symbol, 7 liberty, 8 vote, 9 ballot, 10 election.

11. Open.

Look for:

- Uses the word fair correctly.
- Explains that each person gets one vote and the most votes wins.
- May mention that leaders work for the people who chose them.

Scoring: Developing / Approaching / Proficient / Exemplary. Proficient: fills at least 8 of 10 blanks correctly and gives a clear reason why voting is fair.

Weeks 13–16: My Reflection

Self-check boxes have no right or wrong answer. Use them to choose topics to revisit.

Look for:

- A drawing that clearly shows one topic from Weeks 13 to 16.
- Two lines that name what was learned, not only what was fun.
- A detail from a lesson (the Government Stack, the paper flag, the family election, the letter to the mayor).

Scoring: Developing / Approaching / Proficient / Exemplary. Proficient: the drawing and sentences name a specific fact or skill from these weeks.