

What is Government?

Standard: D2.Civ.1.K-2, D2.Civ.5.K-2 What governments and leaders do for a community

Read the passage two times. Then answer the questions.

Who Takes Care of the Town?

A government is a group of people chosen to make rules and do jobs for a community. A town government fixes roads, keeps parks clean and runs the library. It also pays for fire stations and public schools. Where does the money come from? It comes from taxes. Taxes are money that people chip in so everyone can share these services. Leaders like a mayor work for the people who live in the town. They listen to ideas and help solve problems.

1. What is a government?

2. Name two jobs a town government does.

3. What are taxes?

4. Who does a mayor work for?

Who does this job?

Read each job. Write it in the right column.

fixing potholes	making dinner at home	making laws	baking bread at a bakery
running the public library	selling shoes at a store	keeping town parks clean	washing the family car

The government does this	A family or a business does this

5. If there were no government, who would fix the road? I think

Local, State & National Gov't

Standard: D2.Civ.1.K-2, D2.Civ.5.K-2 Compare the three levels of government

Our country has three levels of government. Local is our town. State is our state. National is the whole country. Use the word bank to fill in the chart.

mayor governor president town council state legislature Congress			
	Local (town)	State	National (country)
Leader			
Group that makes laws			
One job it does	trash pickup		

Which level takes care of it?

Write L for local, S for state, or N for national.

1. a broken streetlight	_____	4. a town swimming pool	_____
2. a driver's license	_____	5. a state park	_____
3. the mail and stamps	_____	6. printing money	_____

Think about it

7. In *Duck for President*, Duck went from farm to governor to president. Which job put Duck in charge of the most people?

8. Why does a whole country need a national government and not just town leaders?

9. Finish it: Our mayor is _____. Our governor is _____.

American Symbols

Standard: D2.Civ.8.K-2 Symbols that stand for our country and its ideas

A symbol is a picture or object that stands for a bigger idea. Draw a line from each symbol to the fact about it.

1. the American flag	a. a big bell in Philadelphia that stands for liberty; it has a crack
2. the bald eagle	b. has 50 stars and 13 stripes
3. the Statue of Liberty	c. the national bird; it stands for strength and freedom
4. the Liberty Bell	d. a gift from France; her torch welcomes people to America

The flag

5. The flag has 50 stars. What do the stars stand for?

6. The flag has 13 stripes. What do the stripes stand for?

Where have you seen them?

7. Look at the back of a dollar bill. Which symbol can you find on it?

8. Where have you seen the American flag?

Draw a symbol

Draw one of the four symbols. Label it.

9. The _____ stands for _____. I would show it first to a visitor because _____

Voting & Elections

Standard: D2.Civ.9.K-2, D2.Civ.11.K-2 How voting helps groups make fair decisions

A family voted for dessert: apples or pears. Here are the ballots. Count them and fill in the tally chart.

apples	pears	apples	apples	pears
pears	apples	apples	pears	apples

Choice	Tally marks	Number of votes
apples		
pears		

1. Which dessert won? _____ How many more votes did it get? _____

Steps of an election

Put the steps in order. Write 1, 2, 3 and 4.

_____	People vote in private.
_____	Candidates tell their reasons.
_____	The votes are counted.
_____	People listen and think.

Think about it

2. In Grace for President, the class voted instead of letting the teacher pick. Why is voting fair?

3. In our country, citizens who are _____ or older can vote for leaders.

4. Kids cannot vote yet. Name one way a kid citizen can help the community.

Weeks 13–16: Vocabulary and Big Ideas

Standard: D2.Civ.1.K-2, D2.Civ.5.K-2, D2.Civ.8.K-2, D2.Civ.9.K-2 Review words about government, symbols and voting

Word Bank

government	taxes	mayor	governor	president
symbol	liberty	vote	ballot	election

Fill in the blank

Use a word from the word bank to finish each sentence. Each word is used one time.

1. A _____ is a group of people who make rules and do jobs for a community.
2. The _____ is the leader of a town or city.
3. The _____ is the leader of a state.
4. The _____ is the leader of the whole country.
5. Money people chip in to pay for roads and schools is called _____.
6. The bald eagle is a _____ of our country.
7. Another word for freedom is _____.
8. When you make a choice in an election, you _____.
9. You mark your choice on a _____.
10. An _____ is a time when people vote to choose a leader.

Explain it

11. Why do people vote to choose leaders? Use the word fair in your answer.

Weeks 13–16: My Reflection

Standard: D2.Civ.1.K-2, D2.Civ.5.K-2, D2.Civ.8.K-2, D2.Civ.9.K-2 Think about what I learned

Read each sentence. Put a check in the box if you can do it.

☐

I can tell what a government is and name jobs it does.

☐

I can compare local, state and national government.

☐

I can name four American symbols and what they stand for.

☐

I can explain how voting works and why it is fair.

The favorite thing I learned

Draw a picture of your favorite thing from Weeks 13 to 16.

Write about your picture. What did you learn?
