Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Town Pays for a New Swing Set

Circle group

A town needs money to buy a new swing set. Where does it get the money?

Most of it comes from taxes. A tax is a small bit of money that people pay. Each person gives a little. Many people give a little, and the town has enough.

The town leaders choose how to spend it. They fix roads and pay workers. They run the library and the fire station. They can buy swings for a park.

Taxes are a way of sharing. All of us help pay. All of us can use the swings.

Questions

1. What is a tax?

_____

_____

2. Who chooses how to spend the town's money?

_____

_____

3. What is one thing a town pays for besides swings?

_____

_____

4. Why does the town have enough money for big jobs?

_____

_____

5. Who can use the swings?

_____

_____

Words to know

tax: money that people pay to help their town
leaders: people who guide a group and make choices for it
sharing: letting many people have or use something
spend: to use money to buy or pay for things

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Town Pays for a New Swing Set

Triangle group

A town needs money to buy a new swing set. Where does the money come from?

Most of it comes from taxes. A tax is a small amount of money that people in a town pay. Each person gives a little. When many people give a little, the town has enough to do big jobs.

The town leaders choose how to spend the money. They use it to fix roads and pay workers. They use it to run the library and the fire station. They can also use it to fill a park with swings.

Taxes are a way of sharing. Everyone helps pay, and everyone gets to use the things that are built. That is why the swings are for all the children in town.

Questions

1. What is a tax?

_____

_____

2. Who chooses how the town spends its money?

_____

_____

3. What is one thing a town pays for besides swings?

_____

_____

4. Why can a town do big jobs with taxes?

_____

_____

5. Who gets to use the swings after the town buys them?

_____

_____

Words to know

tax: money that people pay to help their town
leaders: people who guide a group and make choices for it
sharing: letting many people have or use something

spend: to use money to buy or pay for things

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

How a Town Pays for a New Swing Set

Square group

When a town wants to buy a brand new swing set, it first needs to find the money to pay for it. Where does that money come from?

Most of it comes from taxes. A tax is a small amount of money that the people of a town pay, and since each person gives only a little, it is easy to afford. When a great many people each give a little, the town collects enough to take on big jobs.

The town leaders decide how the money will be spent. They may use it to repair roads, pay workers, and run the library and the fire station. They can also use it to fill a park with swings.

Taxes are a way of sharing. Everyone helps pay, and everyone gets to use the things that are built, which is why the swings are there for all the children in town.

Questions

1. What is a tax?

_____

_____

2. Who decides how the town's money will be spent?

_____

_____

3. What is one thing a town pays for besides swings?

_____

_____

4. Why can a town take on big jobs with taxes?

_____

_____

5. Who gets to use the swings once the town has built them?

_____

_____

Words to know

tax: money that people pay to help their town
leaders: people who guide a group and make choices for it
sharing: letting many people have or use something

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: How a Town Pays for a New Swing Set

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: How a Town Pays for a New Swing Set

Easier · 95 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. A small bit of money that people pay.
2. The town leaders.
3. Roads, workers, the library, or the fire station.
4. Many people each give a little.
5. All the children in town.

Triangle: How a Town Pays for a New Swing Set

This passage · 126 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. A small amount of money that people in a town pay.
2. The town leaders.
3. Roads, workers, the library, or the fire station.
4. Many people each give a little, so there is enough money.
5. All the children in town.

Square: How a Town Pays for a New Swing Set

Harder · 150 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.7

1. A small amount of money that the people of a town pay.
2. The town leaders.
3. Roads, workers, the library, or the fire station.
4. A great many people each give a little, so the town collects enough money.
5. All the children in town.