Name: _____ Date: _____

Rules and Laws

Circle group

Each group of people needs rules. At home, a rule might be to wash your hands before you eat. At school, a rule might be to walk in the hall. Rules help people stay safe and get along.

A town has rules called laws. A law is a rule that all the people in a city, state, or country must follow. Laws tell drivers to stop at a red light. They say that people must not take things that are not theirs.

Leaders make laws. In lots of cities, a city council makes the laws. In the United States, Congress makes laws for the whole country. People vote to pick lots of these leaders.

Break a law, and you may get a penalty, like a fine. Courts decide what should happen when someone is said to have broken a law.

Good laws are fair to all. They help keep people safe.

Questions

1. Why do groups of people need rules?

_____

_____

2. What is a law?

_____

_____

3. Name a law from the passage.

_____

_____

4. Who makes laws for the whole country?

_____

_____

5. What do courts do?

_____

_____

6. How is a school rule not the same as a law?

_____

_____

Words to know

rule: a statement that tells people what they must or must not do
law: a rule that everyone in a city, state, or country must follow
Congress: the group of leaders that makes laws for the United States
vote: to make a choice that is counted along with everyone else's
court: a place where judges decide what happens when a law is broken
fine: money a person must pay for breaking a law

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: _____

Rules and Laws

Triangle group

Every group of people needs rules. At home, a rule might be to wash your hands before dinner. At school, a rule might be to walk in the hallway. Rules help people stay safe and get along.

A community has rules too, and they are called laws. A law is a rule that everyone in a city, state, or country must follow. Laws tell drivers to stop at a red light. They say that people must not take things that belong to someone else.

Leaders make laws. In many cities, a city council makes the laws. In the United States, Congress makes laws for the whole country. People vote to choose many of these leaders.

If a person breaks a law, there may be a penalty, such as paying a fine. Courts decide what should happen when someone is accused of breaking a law.

Good laws are fair to everyone, and they help keep people safe.

Questions

1. Why do groups of people need rules?

_____

_____

2. What is a law?

_____

_____

3. What is one example of a law from the passage?

_____

_____

4. Who makes laws for the whole country?

_____

_____

5. What do courts do?

_____

_____

6. How is a school rule different from a law?

_____

_____

Words to know

rule: a statement that tells people what they must or must not do
law: a rule that everyone in a city, state, or country must follow
Congress: the group of leaders that makes laws for the United States
vote: to make a choice that is counted along with everyone else's
court: a place where judges decide what happens when a law is broken
fine: money a person must pay for breaking a law

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: _____

Rules and Laws

Square group

Every group of people requires rules. At home, a family rule might be to wash your hands before dinner. At school, a classroom rule might be to walk, rather than run, in the hallway. Rules help people remain safe and cooperate with one another.

A community also has rules, which are known as laws. A law is a rule that everyone in a city, state, or country is required to follow. For instance, laws instruct drivers to stop at a red light, and they declare that people must not take property belonging to someone else.

Laws are created by leaders. In many cities, a group called a city council makes the local laws. In the United States, Congress makes laws for the entire nation. Citizens vote to select many of these leaders.

When a person breaks a law, there may be a penalty, such as paying a fine. Courts determine what should happen when someone is accused of breaking a law.

Good laws treat everyone fairly, and they help protect people's safety.

Questions

1. According to the passage, why does every group require rules?

_____

_____

2. What is a law?

_____

_____

3. Give one example of a law mentioned in the passage.

_____

_____

4. Who makes laws for the entire nation?

_____

_____

5. What is the role of the courts?

_____

_____

6. How does a school rule differ from a law?

_____

_____

Words to know

rule: a statement that tells people what they must or must not do
law: a rule that everyone in a city, state, or country must follow
Congress: the group of leaders that makes laws for the United States
vote: to make a choice that is counted along with everyone else's
court: a place where judges decide what happens when a law is broken
fine: money a person must pay for breaking a law

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: Rules and Laws

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

Circle: Rules and Laws

Easier · 151 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Rules help people stay safe and get along.
2. A rule that all the people in a city, state, or country must follow.
3. Drivers must stop at a red light, or people must not take things that are not theirs.
4. Congress.
5. They decide what should happen when someone is said to have broken a law.
6. A school rule is for the people in one school. A law is for all the people in a city, state, or country.

Triangle: Rules and Laws

This passage · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. Rules help people stay safe and get along.
2. A rule that everyone in a city, state, or country must follow.
3. Drivers must stop at a red light, or people must not take things that belong to someone else.
4. Congress.
5. They decide what should happen when someone is accused of breaking a law.
6. A school rule is for the people in one school. A law is for everyone in a city, state, or country.

Square: Rules and Laws

Harder · 172 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.7

1. Rules help people remain safe and cooperate with one another.
2. A rule that everyone in a city, state, or country is required to follow.
3. Drivers must stop at a red light, or people must not take property belonging to someone else.
4. Congress.
5. They determine what should happen when someone is accused of breaking a law.
6. A school rule applies only to the people in one school. A law applies to everyone in a city, state, or country.