Name: _____ Date: _____

The Notice on the Pole Before a Big Decision

Circle group

Before a town makes some big decisions, it must tell people first. This is called giving notice. A notice is a short message. It says what will be decided. It also says when and where the meeting will be.

Towns post notices where many people will see them. These can be the door of the town hall or a board at the library. They can be a local newspaper, a pole at the edge of the land, or the town website. In some places, the town also mails a letter to the neighbors who live close by.

Why does this matter? A town belongs to the people who live in it. Imagine a council voted on a new parking lot in secret. Neighbors might wake up one morning and find bulldozers by their homes. Notice gives residents time. They can learn about the plan. They can ask questions. They can decide if they want to speak at the meeting.

The rules about how many days ahead are different from place to place. But the idea is the same. Public means open to everyone. You do not need to be a grown-up or a voter to read a public notice. It is an easy way for a young person to learn what is going on nearby.

Questions

1. What is a notice?

_____

_____

2. Where might a town post a notice?

_____

_____

3. Why does a town give notice before big decisions?

_____

_____

4. Are the rules for how many days ahead the same everywhere?

_____

_____

5. Who can read a public notice?

_____

_____

6. What might happen if a town gave no notice?

_____

_____

Words to know

notice: a message that tells people something ahead of time
decisions: choices that people make after thinking
residents: people who live in a certain place
bulldozers: powerful machines that push dirt and clear land
public: open to everyone

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: _____

The Notice on the Pole Before a Big Decision

Triangle group

Before a town makes some kinds of big decisions, it must tell people about them first. This is called giving notice. A notice is a short message that says what will be decided, and when and where the meeting will be held.

Towns post notices in places that many people will see. These can include the door of the town hall, a board at the library, a local newspaper, a pole at the edge of the land, or the town website. In some places, the town also mails a letter to the neighbors who live close by.

Why does this matter? A town belongs to the people who live in it. Imagine if a council voted on a new parking lot in secret. Neighbors might wake up one morning and find bulldozers beside their homes. Notice gives residents time to learn about the plan, ask questions, and decide whether to speak at the meeting.

The rules about how many days ahead a notice must be posted are different from place to place. But the idea is the same everywhere. Public means open to everyone. You do not need to be a grown-up or a voter to read a public notice. It is an easy way for a young person to learn what is going on nearby.

Questions

1. What is a notice?

_____

_____

2. Where might a town post a notice?

_____

_____

3. Why does a town give notice before big decisions?

_____

_____

4. Are the rules for how many days ahead the same everywhere?

_____

_____

5. Who is allowed to read a public notice?

_____

_____

6. What might happen if a town gave no notice at all?

_____

_____

Words to know

notice: a message that tells people something ahead of time
decisions: choices that people make after thinking
residents: people who live in a certain place
bulldozers: powerful machines that push dirt and clear land
public: open to everyone

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: _____

The Notice on the Pole Before a Big Decision

Square group

Before a town makes certain kinds of significant decisions, it is required to inform people about them in advance. This is known as giving notice. A notice is a brief message stating exactly what will be decided, along with the time and place of the meeting where the decision will be made.

Towns display notices in locations where large numbers of people will see them. These may include the door of the town hall, a board at the library, a local newspaper, a pole at the edge of the land in question, or the town website. In some communities, the town also mails a letter to the neighbors who live nearby.

Why does this matter so much? A town belongs to the people who live in it. Imagine that a council voted on a new parking lot in secret. Neighbors might wake up one morning and discover bulldozers beside their homes. Notice gives residents the time to learn about the plan, to ask questions, and to decide whether they wish to speak at the meeting.

The rules about how many days in advance a notice must be posted vary from one place to another, but the underlying idea is identical everywhere. The word public means open to everyone, so you do not need to be an adult or a voter to read a public notice. Reading them is a simple way for a young person to learn what is happening in the neighborhood.

Questions

1. What is a notice?

_____

_____

2. Where might a town display a notice?

_____

_____

3. Why does a town give notice before significant decisions?

_____

_____

4. Are the rules for how many days in advance identical everywhere?

_____

_____

5. Who is allowed to read a public notice?

_____

_____

6. What might happen if a town gave no notice whatsoever?

_____

_____

Words to know

notice: a message that tells people something ahead of time
decisions: choices that people make after thinking
residents: people who live in a certain place
bulldozers: powerful machines that push dirt and clear land
public: open to everyone

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: The Notice on the Pole Before a Big Decision

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

Circle: The Notice on the Pole Before a Big Decision

Easier · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. A short message that says what will be decided and when and where the meeting is.
2. On the town hall door, a library board, a newspaper, a pole or the website.
3. So residents have time to learn about the plan, ask questions and speak at the meeting.
4. No, they are different from place to place.
5. Anyone, including young people.
6. Neighbors could be surprised by changes and never get to speak up.

Triangle: The Notice on the Pole Before a Big Decision

This passage · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. A short message that says what will be decided and when and where the meeting is.
2. On the town hall door, a library board, a newspaper, a pole or the website.
3. So residents have time to learn about the plan, ask questions and speak at the meeting.
4. No, they are different from place to place.
5. Anyone, including young people.
6. Neighbors could be surprised by changes and never get a chance to speak up.

Square: The Notice on the Pole Before a Big Decision

Harder · 243 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.2

1. A brief message stating what will be decided and the time and place of the meeting.
2. On the town hall door, a library board, a newspaper, a pole or the website.
3. So residents have time to learn about the plan, ask questions and speak at the meeting.
4. No, they vary from one place to another.
5. Anyone, including young people.
6. Neighbors could be startled by changes and never receive a chance to speak.