Name: _____ Date: _____

Practice at Home with a Sample Ballot

Circle group

Before an election, many places mail out or post a sample ballot. A sample ballot looks like the real one. But it is only for practice. Grown-ups can use it at home to get ready. Then voting day goes well.

Start at the top. The ballot lists offices. An office is a job that voters choose someone to do. It might be mayor. It might be a seat on the school board. Under each office are the names of the candidates. Candidates are the people who want the job. Some ballots also ask yes or no questions. They may be about a local rule or plan. Many towns print a short note about each question in plain words.

Next, take your time. Read each choice slowly. Look up the candidates you do not know. Find out what each one says they will do. A sample lets you see the questions early. Then you do not have to rush in the voting booth.

Last, a sample is not a vote. Marks on the practice copy do not count. Only the real ballot is counted. Young people can still join in. They can read the sample with a family member and talk about the choices.

Questions

1. What is a sample ballot for?

_____

_____

2. What is an office on a ballot?

_____

_____

3. What are candidates?

_____

_____

4. What else may a ballot ask besides choosing people?

_____

_____

5. Does a mark on the sample ballot count as a vote?

_____

_____

6. Why does reading a sample early help a voter?

_____

_____

Words to know

election: a time when people vote to make a choice
ballot: the paper or screen where a voter makes choices
candidates: people who ask voters to choose them for a job
office: a public job that a person is chosen to do
sample: a copy that shows what the real thing looks like

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: _____

Practice at Home with a Sample Ballot

Triangle group

Before an election, many places mail out or post a sample ballot. A sample ballot looks like the real one, but it is only for practice. Grown-ups can use it at home to get ready so that voting day goes smoothly.

Start at the top. The ballot lists offices, which are the jobs that voters are choosing someone to do, such as mayor or a seat on the school board. Under each office are the names of the candidates, the people who want the job. Some ballots also ask yes or no questions about a local rule or plan. Many towns print a short explanation of each question in plain words.

Next, take your time. Read each choice slowly. Look up any candidates you do not know and find out what each one says they will do. A sample ballot lets you meet the questions ahead of time, so you do not have to rush in the voting booth.

Last, remember that a sample is not a vote. Marks on the practice copy do not count. Only the real ballot, filled out on voting day or by the allowed deadline, is counted. A young person can still join the fun by reading the sample with a family member and talking about the choices.

Questions

1. What is a sample ballot for?

_____

_____

2. What is an office on a ballot?

_____

_____

3. What are candidates?

_____

_____

4. What else may a ballot ask besides choosing people?

_____

_____

5. Does a mark on the sample ballot count as a vote?

_____

_____

6. Why does reading a sample ahead of time help a voter?

_____

_____

Words to know

election: a time when people vote to make a choice
ballot: the paper or screen where a voter makes choices
candidates: people who ask voters to choose them for a job
office: a public job that a person is chosen to do
sample: a copy that shows what the real thing looks like

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: _____

Practice at Home with a Sample Ballot

Square group

Before an election takes place, many communities mail out or publish a sample ballot. A sample ballot closely resembles the genuine one, but it is intended solely for practice. Adults can study it at home in preparation, so that voting day proceeds smoothly.

Begin at the top of the page. The ballot lists offices, which are the positions that voters are selecting someone to fill, such as mayor or a seat on the school board. Beneath each office appear the names of the candidates, the people who are seeking the position. Some ballots additionally pose yes or no questions about a local rule or plan, and many towns print a short explanation of each question in plain language.

Next, take your time and read each choice slowly. Research any candidates you do not recognize, and find out what each one says they intend to do. A sample ballot allows you to become familiar with the questions in advance, so you are not forced to hurry while standing in the voting booth.

Finally, keep in mind that a sample is not a vote. Marks made on the practice copy are never counted. Only the genuine ballot, completed on voting day or by the permitted deadline, is tallied. A young person can still participate by reading the sample alongside a family member and discussing the choices together.

Questions

1. What is a sample ballot intended for?

_____

_____

2. What is an office on a ballot?

_____

_____

3. What are candidates?

_____

_____

4. What else may a ballot ask in addition to choosing people?

_____

_____

5. Are marks on the sample ballot counted as a vote?

_____

_____

6. Why does studying a sample in advance help a voter?

_____

_____

Words to know

election: a time when people vote to make a choice
ballot: the paper or screen where a voter makes choices
candidates: people who ask voters to choose them for a job
office: a public job that a person is chosen to do
sample: a copy that shows what the real thing looks like

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: Practice at Home with a Sample Ballot

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

Circle: Practice at Home with a Sample Ballot

Easier · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. It is for practice, to help voters get ready.
2. A job that voters choose someone to do.
3. The people who want the job.
4. Yes or no questions about a local rule or plan.
5. No, only the real ballot is counted.
6. The voter already knows the choices and does not have to rush in the booth.

Triangle: Practice at Home with a Sample Ballot

This passage · 214 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. It is for practice, to help voters get ready.
2. A job that voters are choosing someone to do.
3. The people who want the job.
4. Yes or no questions about a local rule or plan.
5. No, only the real ballot is counted.
6. The voter already knows the choices and does not have to rush in the booth.

Square: Practice at Home with a Sample Ballot

Harder · 225 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.8

1. It is intended for practice, to help voters prepare.
2. A position that voters are selecting someone to fill.
3. The people who are seeking the position.
4. Yes or no questions about a local rule or plan.
5. No, only the genuine ballot is tallied.
6. The voter is already familiar with the choices and is not forced to hurry in the booth.