A Safer Crossing

How neighbors work together to improve their town

SS24.6.18a "Identify and describe ways citizens work together to influence the government and solve problems."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions people take together to make the crossing safer. Circle actions the town takes in response.

The Crossing Near the Library

1 On weekday afternoons, students in the town of Pine Hollow crossed Oak Street to reach the library. Cars often passed quickly, and the nearest marked crossing was three blocks away. No single neighbor could paint a legal crosswalk or change the speed limit alone. At a block meeting, families agreed to ask the town to make the crossing safer. They formed a small group and invited students, library staff, and nearby shop owners to share what they had seen.

2 Group members took turns observing traffic from the sidewalk and recorded when many people crossed. They did not step into the road or try to stop cars. Together, they wrote a petition asking the town council to review the crossing. More than sixty residents signed it. Two students and a shop owner spoke at a public council meeting. They shared the group's notes and explained why a crossing near the library mattered to people of different ages. The council asked its transportation staff to study the site.

3 Transportation staff checked traffic and recommended a marked crosswalk and signs. The council voted to pay for the changes, and town workers installed them. While the town handled the street, residents kept working together. Library staff offered a room for safety talks, and volunteers helped children practice choosing safe places to cross. The group later reported that drivers still blocked the new crosswalk at busy times. Town staff used those reports to decide where to place an additional sign.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did families bring people together to address the crossing problem?

2. How did group members work together to give the council evidence about the crossing?

3. What two actions brought the group's request to the council, and what did the council do next?

4. How did residents keep working together after the crosswalk was installed? How did they influence the town again?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your neighborhood park has no shaded place to sit on hot days. In 4 to 5 sentences, describe at least two actions residents could take together to ask local government for a solution, what they would ask for, and one way they could help while waiting.

ANSWER KEY

A Safer Crossing

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.18a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions people take together to make the crossing safer. Circle actions the town takes in response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did families bring people together to address the crossing problem?	**They formed a group and invited students, library staff, and shop owners to share what they had seen.**
2	How did group members work together to give the council evidence about the crossing?	**They took turns observing traffic, recorded when many people crossed, and shared their notes with the council.**
3	What two actions brought the group's request to the council, and what did the council do next?	**Residents signed a petition, and group members spoke at a council meeting. The council asked transportation staff to study the site.**
4	How did residents keep working together after the crosswalk was installed? How did they influence the town again?	**Library staff offered space for safety talks, volunteers helped children practice safe crossing, and the group reported blocked crossings. Town staff used the reports to choose a place for an additional sign.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors could meet at the park and collect comments from people who use its benches. They could sign a petition and bring the comments to a public council meeting. Together, they could ask the town to add a shade shelter after checking costs and safety. While they wait, volunteers could share a list of cooler times to visit the park.

Accept other passage-supported examples of residents working together and town actions taken in response. For Your Turn, look for two group actions, a clear request to local government, and a helpful action residents can take while waiting.