

Power Starts Here

How people give power to the U.S. government

SS.3.CG.1.2 "Describe how the U.S. government gains its power from the people."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each sentence that tells how people give power to the government or guide its leaders. Put a star beside the sentence that explains why leaders should listen to people.

The People's Power

- ① In the United States, government power begins with the people. Long ago, the people approved the Constitution through their representatives. The Constitution begins with the words "We the People." These words show that the government was created to serve the people. Government leaders must follow the Constitution, which explains what they may do and what limits they have.
- ② People share power by choosing leaders in elections. Adults who are citizens can vote for president, members of Congress, governors, and other officials. When voters choose a leader, they give that person permission to make some government decisions. Elections happen again, so people can keep a leader or choose someone new. This helps leaders listen to the people.
- ③ People also use their voices between elections. They can write to leaders, attend public meetings, sign petitions, or peacefully speak about problems. Leaders learn what people need when they listen to these voices. Courts and laws protect important rights, such as speaking freely and voting. Because the government gets its power from the people, leaders should use that power to serve everyone fairly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What words at the beginning of the Constitution show that government power starts with the people?

2 How do people give leaders permission to make some government decisions?

3 Why do elections happen again?

4 Name two ways people can use their voices between elections.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A town needs a rule for a new playground. Write three sentences explaining how people can help guide the town government and why town leaders should listen.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that tells how people give power to the government or guide its leaders. Put a star beside the sentence that explains why leaders should listen to people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What words at the beginning of the Constitution show that government power starts with the people?	"We the People."
2	How do people give leaders permission to make some government decisions?	People vote for and choose leaders in elections.
3	Why do elections happen again?	People can keep a leader or choose someone new.
4	Name two ways people can use their voices between elections.	Answers include writing to leaders, attending public meetings, signing petitions, and peacefully speaking about problems.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Town residents can vote for a council member who listens to their ideas about the playground. They can speak at a public meeting or write to the council. The council should listen because its power comes from the people.

Accept answers that show people give government power by approving the Constitution through representatives, voting for leaders, and sharing ideas with leaders. For the open response, accept any accurate three-sentence explanation using a town-government example and the idea that leaders get power from people.