Rules That Protect

How laws and rules help people share spaces

3.SS.4.1 "Explain the benefits of following the laws and the consequences of breaking the rules and laws of our local and national communities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one benefit of following the town law and one benefit of following the national law. Circle one possible result of breaking each law.

A Saturday in Nia's Community

1. On Saturday, Nia visits a town park with her family. The town has a law against leaving trash in the park. People who use the bins help keep the grass clean and the play area safe for everyone. If someone breaks the law, the town may give that person a fine. A fine means paying money as a penalty. Laws like this protect shared places.

2. Later, Nia sees a mail carrier place letters in the boxes along her street. A national law says people cannot steal someone else's mail. Following this law helps families get their letters and packages. It also helps keep private messages private. A person who steals mail can be punished with a fine or even jail time. National laws apply across the whole country.

3. At the community pool, a sign says, "Walk on the wet deck." This is a pool rule, not a law. Walking helps swimmers avoid slipping and getting hurt. If someone runs, a pool worker may ask that person to sit out for a while. The rule and the laws have different penalties, but following each one helps people share spaces and feel safe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does following the town's park law help people?

2. What may happen if someone breaks the town's park law?

3. How does following the national mail law help families, and what can happen if someone breaks it?

4. Why should swimmers follow the pool rule, and what may happen if they do not?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a school rule that is not in the passage. Write three sentences: name the rule, explain how following it helps others, and describe a fair result of breaking it.

ANSWER KEY

Rules That Protect

GRADE 3 · 3.SS.4.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one benefit of following the town law and one benefit of following the national law. Circle one possible result of breaking each law. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does following the town's park law help people?	**It keeps the grass clean and the play area safe.**
2	What may happen if someone breaks the town's park law?	**The town may give that person a fine.**
3	How does following the national mail law help families, and what can happen if someone breaks it?	**Families get their mail, and private messages stay private. Someone who steals mail can face a fine or jail time.**
4	Why should swimmers follow the pool rule, and what may happen if they do not?	**Walking helps swimmers avoid slipping and getting hurt. Someone who runs may have to sit out for a while.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At our school, we keep our hands to ourselves in the hallway. This rule helps everyone walk without getting pushed or hurt. If a student pushes someone, a teacher may ask the student to stop and practice walking safely.

Accept answers that explain the stated benefit and a possible consequence from the passage. For Part 3, accept a different school rule with a clear benefit and a fair, realistic result.