Neighbors Take Action

Ways citizens help shape their community

5.SS.4.10 "Describe ways in which citizens participate in public life."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each action people take to participate in public life, and underline words that show what each action does for the community.

A Safer Way to the Park

1 On Saturday mornings, cars crowded the street outside Maple Park. Neighbors worried that children had trouble crossing to the playground. Maya and her father attended a public meeting at city hall. Maya described what she saw, and her father asked the city council to study the crossing. Speaking at the meeting gave local leaders information from people who used the street.

2 Other neighbors wrote a petition asking for a marked crosswalk and better signs. They collected signatures and delivered the petition to the council. A petition lets many residents share the same request. While the city considered changes, volunteers stood near the park during busy hours. They reminded families to use the existing crossing and helped younger children wait for a safe time to cross.

3 In the next city election, eligible adults voted for council members. Voters could choose leaders whose plans matched their ideas about street safety. Maya could not vote yet, but she could still speak at meetings and volunteer. Months later, the council approved new signs near the park. The neighbors had used different ways to take part in public life, from sharing ideas to helping others directly.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Maya and her father take part in public life at city hall, and how did it help local leaders?

2. How did neighbors use a petition to make a request to the council?

3. Maya could not vote yet. Describe two ways she could still take part in public life.

4. How did volunteering near the park and voting in the city election help in different ways?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town's public library needs more places to refill water bottles. Describe two ways citizens could help that are not in the passage. Explain how each way could help, and say which one a child could do.

ANSWER KEY

Neighbors Take Action

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.4.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each action people take to participate in public life, and underline words that show what each action does for the community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Maya and her father take part in public life at city hall, and how did it help local leaders?	**They spoke at a public meeting. Their comments gave local leaders information about the crossing.**
2	How did neighbors use a petition to make a request to the council?	**They collected signatures and delivered a shared request for a marked crosswalk and better signs.**
3	Maya could not vote yet. Describe two ways she could still take part in public life.	**She could speak at a public meeting and volunteer near the park.**
4	How did volunteering near the park and voting in the city election help in different ways?	**Volunteering helped families practice safety right away. Voting let eligible adults choose council members whose plans matched their ideas about street safety.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Citizens could write letters to the library board explaining why refill stations would help visitors. They could also raise money at a community sale to help pay for a station. A child could help write a letter and explain where visitors need water most.

For Part 3, accept two distinct forms of participation not described in the passage if the student explains how each addresses the library's need and identifies one a child could do.