Power and Parks

How people and principles shape government decisions

4.C.1.1 "Describe the principles of democratic governments, such as the United States of America. Identify the principles upon which our nation's government is based, including the rule of law, compromise, equality, and individual rights of life..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the council's compromise and circle a detail that shows equal treatment. Write 1 beside where leaders get their power and 2 beside how people choose leaders.

A Park Rule and the People

1. At a town meeting, families disagree about a new rule for the public park. Some want it closed at night for safety. Others want to walk there after dinner. The council listens to both sides and votes to close it only after 10 p.m. This compromise aims to protect people while leaving time to enjoy the park. The same rule applies to everyone, including council members.

2. People can question a park rule because leaders must follow the law too. This is called the rule of law. In the Declaration of Independence, the founders said people are created equal and have rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They said governments get their power from the people. Protecting safety and keeping order are ways a government serves the common good, the well-being of everyone.

3. The United States is a constitutional republic. People give leaders authority by choosing representatives in fair elections for local, state, and national offices. The Constitution is a written plan for government. It sets up three branches of the national government and divides power between the national government and state governments. These limits help keep any one part from holding all the power. Leaders must respect people's rights, including their right to own property.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the park rule show equality, and what must council members do under the rule of law?

2. How does the council's compromise protect people while leaving them free to use the park?

3. The Declaration says government gets its power from the people. How do people give leaders authority in the United States?

4. How does the Constitution keep government power from staying in one place?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town wants to add a bike lane near a school, but some neighbors worry about losing street parking. In three or four sentences, propose a compromise, explain how it serves the common good and treats people equally, and tell how people could take part in the decision.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Parks

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the council's compromise and circle a detail that shows equal treatment. Write 1 beside where leaders get their power and 2 beside how people choose leaders. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the park rule show equality, and what must council members do under the rule of law?	**The rule applies to everyone, including council members. Council members must follow the law too.**
2	How does the council's compromise protect people while leaving them free to use the park?	**Closing the park after 10 p.m. aims to improve safety while allowing people to use it earlier.**
3	The Declaration says government gets its power from the people. How do people give leaders authority in the United States?	**People choose representatives in fair local, state, and national elections.**
4	How does the Constitution keep government power from staying in one place?	**It sets up three branches of the national government and divides power between the national and state governments.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would add a bike lane on one side of the street and keep parking on the other side. This compromise makes biking to school safer while leaving some parking for neighbors. The bike lane would be open to everyone, so the rule treats people equally. Neighbors could speak at a town council meeting before elected council members vote.

Accept other workable compromises that address both safety and parking. The response should explain equal treatment and name a way people can participate in the decision.