Choices for Our Town

Read how citizens help a community make decisions and care for shared places.

4.C.1.3 "Explain the concept of civic virtue and responsibilities of citizenship. Examine why citizens are expected to respect the law and institutions of authority. Analyze how fulfilling one's civic responsibilities (e.g., voting..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four citizenship duties in the passage. Circle the words that show how each duty helps the country.

A Plan for the Creek Park

1. At a town meeting, Maya hears a plan to fix a park beside a creek. Neighbors want clean water and a safe place to play. They disagree about where a new path should go. Civic virtue means putting the community's needs ahead of your own at times. Maya listens without interrupting. People respect laws and the officials who enforce them because shared rules help keep everyone safe and make decisions orderly.

2. In a constitutional republic, citizens choose representatives who make laws under a constitution. Adults who vote help choose those leaders. Taxes pay for public needs, such as keeping the park safe. Adults called for jury duty help courts decide cases fairly. Some adults serve in the military to help protect the country. Each duty helps the government keep serving people from year to year.

3. At the meeting, neighbors speak calmly and listen to different ideas. They compare two plans for protecting the creek, then agree on a rule that keeps the path away from it. This compromise helps elected town leaders pass a local law that more people can support. Residents can also volunteer to pick up litter or donate money for trees. Saving water and recycling help protect natural resources for future visitors.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why are people expected to respect laws and the officials who enforce them?

2. How do voting and paying taxes each help a constitutional republic keep working?

3. How do jury duty and military service each help the country?

4. How did listening and compromise help town leaders make a local law people could support?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town must choose between a quiet reading room and a computer room in its library. In three or four sentences, explain how neighbors could discuss the choice respectfully, reach a compromise, help town leaders make a rule, and take one action to help the library.

ANSWER KEY

Choices for Our Town

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four citizenship duties in the passage. Circle the words that show how each duty helps the country. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why are people expected to respect laws and the officials who enforce them?	**Shared rules help keep everyone safe and make decisions orderly.**
2	How do voting and paying taxes each help a constitutional republic keep working?	**Voting helps citizens choose leaders. Taxes pay for public needs.**
3	How do jury duty and military service each help the country?	**Jury duty helps courts decide cases fairly. Military service helps protect the country.**
4	How did listening and compromise help town leaders make a local law people could support?	**Neighbors listened to different ideas and agreed to keep the path away from the creek. Town leaders could pass a law based on that agreement.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors could listen to each other and explain why both spaces matter. They could agree to use one room for quiet reading in the morning and computer use in the afternoon. Town leaders could make a schedule rule based on this compromise. I could volunteer to put books back on shelves.

For the marking job, accept voting, paying taxes, jury duty, and military service, along with their stated purposes. For Your Turn, accept a workable compromise and a specific action that helps the library.