Who Decides?

Read how people and leaders solve a town problem.

4.C.1 "Explain the principles of democratic government and the role of citizens. Describe the principles of democratic governments, such as the United States of America. Identify the principles upon which our nation's government is based..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways people help shape government decisions. Circle the sentence that shows a compromise, and number two actions that help the community.

A Fix for the Fountain

1. On a hot afternoon, Maya finds the town park's drinking fountain broken. She wonders who can fix it. In the United States, people are the source of government authority. They choose town council members and other leaders in fair elections at local, state, and national levels. The Constitution is a written plan for government. It divides power among branches and between the national and state governments, so no one group holds all power.

2. Maya speaks at a town council meeting. One neighbor asks for a new fountain, while another says the town should first repair broken lights. Council members listen and agree to fund both repairs in stages. This compromise helps protect everyone's safety and access to water. The town uses tax money for the work, and the same park rules apply to council members and other residents. That is the rule of law.

3. At the meeting, Maya listens without interrupting and shares her idea politely. Citizens can help their communities by speaking up, voting when they are old enough, and volunteering to pick up litter. Many adults pay taxes, and eligible citizens may serve on juries. These actions support a constitutional republic: people choose representatives, and those representatives make decisions while following the Constitution and laws.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How do people give town council members the authority to make decisions?

2. What compromise does the council make, and how does it help the town?

3. How does the rule of law apply to council members at the park?

4. How does the Constitution keep one group from holding all government power?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A town has money for either a safer crosswalk by a school or new books for the library. Write three or four sentences explaining how residents and elected leaders could discuss the choice, make a fair decision, and help the town. Include one way you could help.

ANSWER KEY

Who Decides?

GRADE 4 · 4.C.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways people help shape government decisions. Circle the sentence that shows a compromise, and number two actions that help the community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How do people give town council members the authority to make decisions?	**People choose town council members in fair local elections.**
2	What compromise does the council make, and how does it help the town?	**The council agrees to fund the fountain and light repairs in stages. The repairs help people have water and stay safe.**
3	How does the rule of law apply to council members at the park?	**Council members must follow the same park rules as other residents.**
4	How does the Constitution keep one group from holding all government power?	**It divides power among branches and between the national and state governments.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents could share their ideas at a council meeting and listen to each other. Elected leaders could choose the crosswalk because it would help students cross safely. They could explain their choice and discuss library books again when more money is available. I could volunteer at the library.

Accept other passage-based examples of elections, compromise, and the rule of law. For Part 3, accept either project choice if the response includes public discussion, a fair decision by elected leaders, a benefit to the town, and a way the student could help.