Who Decides Here?

Explore how a town governs itself with the people's consent.

5.C.3.4.D "the principle of self-rule by consent of the governed"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline how voters give the council authority, circle the action that shows the town making its own decision, and write 1 and 2 beside two ways residents can keep a say in government.

A Change at the Library

1. In the town of Pine Harbor, the public library closes before many families get home. Residents ask the town council to keep it open later on Thursdays. The council makes rules for town services, but its members do not inherit their seats. Eligible town voters choose them in regular elections. This is one way people give their consent, or permission, to be governed.

2. At a public meeting, families, library workers, and other residents share their views. Some want longer hours, while others worry about the cost. Council members listen, then vote to move library hours from Tuesday morning to Thursday evening. The library stays open the same number of hours each week. The council makes a local choice instead of waiting for a distant ruler to decide.

3. Not everyone likes the change, and consent does not mean every person agrees with every decision. The council has authority because eligible voters chose its members to act for the town. Residents can speak at future meetings and vote for different council members at the next election. These choices help the people keep a say in their government, even after one vote is over.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What gives the council authority to make decisions for Pine Harbor?

2. How does the library decision show that Pine Harbor governs itself?

3. Some residents dislike the new library hours. Why can the council still have the people's consent to govern?

4. What are two ways residents can keep a say in government after the library vote?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your town must decide whether to add benches at a town park. In three to four sentences, explain how residents give the council authority, how the town could make the decision, and what residents could do if they disagree.

ANSWER KEY

Who Decides Here?

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.4.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline how voters give the council authority, circle the action that shows the town making its own decision, and write 1 and 2 beside two ways residents can keep a say in government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What gives the council authority to make decisions for Pine Harbor?	**Eligible town voters choose council members in regular elections.**
2	How does the library decision show that Pine Harbor governs itself?	**The town council listens to residents and votes on a local choice instead of waiting for a distant ruler.**
3	Some residents dislike the new library hours. Why can the council still have the people's consent to govern?	**Eligible voters chose the council members to act for the town. Consent does not mean everyone agrees with every decision.**
4	What are two ways residents can keep a say in government after the library vote?	**They can speak at future meetings and vote for different council members at the next election.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Eligible voters choose council members in an election, giving them authority to act for the town. Residents share ideas about the benches, and the council votes on whether to add them. If residents dislike the decision, they can speak at another meeting or vote for different members in the next election.

Accept answers that connect the council's authority to voters choosing its members. For the open task, look for an election, a local decision, and a way residents can continue to influence their government.