

Citizens in Action

Compare how citizens participate in government and support their communities.

6.11.A “describe and compare roles and responsibilities of citizens in various contemporary societies, including the United States; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one way citizens participate in government in each paragraph, then circle one different responsibility in each paragraph that supports the community.

Citizenship Across Societies

- ① In the United States, citizens can vote for leaders when they meet age and registration rules in their state. Voting lets people help choose representatives, but it is not required by law. Citizens may also be called for jury service. A jury listens to evidence and helps decide facts in a court case. People who earn income may owe taxes, which help pay for public services such as roads, schools, and emergency workers in their communities.
- ② In Japan, citizens age 18 and older may vote in national elections, and voting is voluntary. Many neighborhoods prepare for earthquakes, typhoons, and other emergencies. Local groups often hold disaster drills, where residents practice leaving safely and meeting at a designated place. During an emergency, people are expected to follow official warnings and instructions. This cooperation can protect neighbors, including older people and people who need help. Citizens also pay taxes to support public services.
- ③ In Brazil, voting is compulsory for literate citizens from ages 18 through 69. It is optional for citizens ages 16 and 17, people age 70 or older, and people who cannot read or write. Citizens vote for officials at several levels of government. Like people in other countries, Brazilians use public spaces with others. Following traffic rules, caring for shared places, and respecting other people's rights are daily responsibilities that can make communities safer and fairer for everyone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How is voting different for citizens in the United States and for many citizens in Brazil?

2 What responsibility in Japan can help protect neighbors during an emergency?

3 Besides voting, name one way United States citizens can take part in government. Explain what they do.

4 Which responsibility is mentioned in both the United States and Japan? What can it help support?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a citizenship plan for a new coastal city in exactly 4 sentences. Include one government-participation role from one society in the passage and one community-safety or shared-space responsibility from a different society, name both societies, and explain how the roles help the city.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one way citizens participate in government in each paragraph, then circle one different responsibility in each paragraph that supports the community. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How is voting different for citizens in the United States and for many citizens in Brazil?	Voting is voluntary in the United States. In Brazil, voting is compulsory for literate citizens ages 18 through 69.
2	What responsibility in Japan can help protect neighbors during an emergency?	People are expected to follow official warnings and instructions. Neighborhood disaster drills also help residents practice leaving safely and meeting at a designated place.
3	Besides voting, name one way United States citizens can take part in government. Explain what they do.	Citizens may serve on a jury. A jury listens to evidence and helps decide facts in a court case.
4	Which responsibility is mentioned in both the United States and Japan? What can it help support?	Paying taxes is mentioned in both societies. Taxes help support public services, such as roads, schools, and emergency workers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our new coastal city will let eligible citizens vote, as citizens may do in Japan. Voting gives people a way to influence their government. The city will also ask citizens to care for shared places, like the responsibility described in Brazil. Clean and respected shared places can make the city safer and fairer for everyone.

Accept accurate comparisons and responsibilities stated in the passage. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences, two different societies, one government-participation role, one community responsibility, and an explanation of how the roles help.