

Social Studies Chapter 2

Lesson 3

The Ideals of Democracy

Think about democracy like this...

You know a car needs an engine to run.
Well...democracy is the engine that keeps
the United States running. The actions and
choices of people in the U.S. give the
nation and the government the power to
move forward.



Main Idea

Living in a democracy brings rights and responsibilities.

Rights: express opinions freely, join groups of your choice, practice any religion, vote, have a fair trial, own property and businesses, etc...

Responsibilities: voting, serving on jury duty, obeying laws, paying your bills on time, etc...

Go America!!

Being a citizen of the United States is
SPECIAL!!

(because we live in a democracy)

Throughout history, in most countries ordinary people have NO role (or say) in their government. This is true for some countries even today.

But NOT in America!

All U.S. citizens have a role in shaping their government and their culture!

(This is a democracy!)

In a democracy, the citizens have rights!

Rights = freedoms protected by law.

The U.S. government is supposed to guarantee and protect its citizens' rights.

What about people who come from
other countries?

They too can become U.S.
citizens and vote.

How?

(glad you asked...)

They go through a legal process called
naturalization.

Naturalization is...

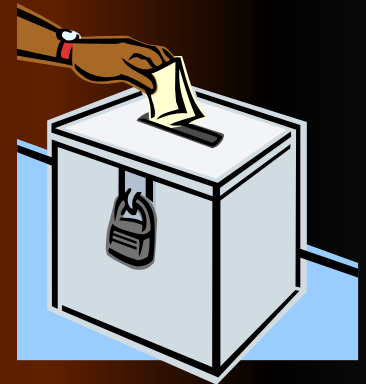
The process of becoming a citizen by learning the laws of the country and the rights and responsibilities of its citizens.



Let's talk about voting and other rights...

Voting is one of the most important rights American citizens have. By voting in local, state, and national elections, citizens help choose leaders and give direction to the government.

Another word for this is...
Democracy!!



How are our rights protected?

The Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the government!

The leaders we elect are responsible for protecting our rights by doing what the Constitution and the Bill of Rights say! The government can also make new laws...

At what age can citizens register to vote?

Question...

How are responsibilities different from rights?



Answer...

Rights are freedoms protected by law, while responsibilities are duties that people SHOULD fulfill.

Question...

What responsibilities do young people have to contribute to democracy?



Answer...

They can be good citizens, obey the laws and go to school so they can be informed and make thoughtful decisions about public issues.



Preserving Democracy



The future of America depends on a strong democracy. In a democracy, citizens have a responsibility to be involved in the life of their communities and their country.

Lesson Summary...

- Being a citizen of a democracy means having rights and responsibilities.
- The Bill of Rights lists many of the rights U.S. citizens have.
- Citizens have a responsibility to create an orderly, caring society.
- Young people have a responsibility to their communities and country.

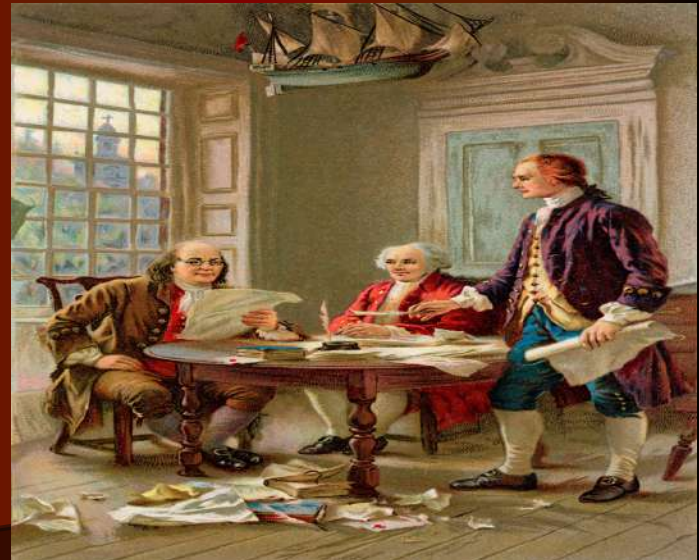
Why It Matters...

Good citizenship is necessary for a strong country and for safe communities.



Challenge...

Use the timeline at the top of page 59 to determine how many years there were between the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the Constitution.



Timeline...

- The Declaration of Independence was written in 1776.
- The Constitution was signed in 1787.

The answer is...
11 years.

Challenge...

How did Thomas Jefferson and James Madison contribute to our national liberty?

C'mon...you know this!

Answer...

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, and James Madison was an author of the U.S. Constitution.

Challenge...

Why does the Constitution provide for checks and balances?



Answer...

To prevent one branch of government from becoming stronger than the other two.

Challenge...

What are two of the checks and balances listed in the Constitution?

Think, man think!!!

Answer...

Possible answer.... Congress makes laws, but the President can veto the laws, and the Supreme Court can declare them unconstitutional. The President chooses judges, but Congress must approve them.

Challenge...

Why was the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution?

Answer...

The people DEMANDED it be added as a protection of individual rights.

That's it...

Well done!!