

TEK Extra!

Supplement to TIME For Kids • 2nd and 3rd grade edition



Can I make a difference?

Does what I think matter?

YOUR IDEAS COUNT!

→ This guide shows you how!

Sponsored by the NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES and THE CENTER ON CONGRESS AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY

HELP KEEP OUR COUNTRY STRONG

Imagine that your parents ask you every day what you would like for dinner. What would happen if you never answered them? They would have a tricky time figuring out what you were thinking, right?

Well, our country's government works the same way. If we don't speak up about our ideas, our elected leaders will not know what we want.

We live in a big country. It takes all of us working together to make things run smoothly. Your ideas help keep our democracy strong and moving ahead!



TAKE OUR QUIZ!

We took a vote and found that you might not want to take another quiz. So we asked a few elected officials—people who help make our government work—to answer these questions for you!

#1 What is representative democracy?

- A. a great new candy bar
- B. Harry Potter's favorite tongue twister
- C. our system of government**

"We elect leaders who are aware of our hopes and dreams for the country. These leaders 'represent' us, or speak for us, in our government. The majority [the group with the most people] wins in our system, but the rights of the other groups are respected."

—Oklahoma State Senate Assistant Majority Leader Angela Z. Monson

#2 A legislator is a person who makes laws.

(Fill in the blank)

"Like a baker makes pies, or a carpenter makes houses, legislators make laws. We're usually called representatives or senators. We work in Congress in Washington, D.C., or in one of the 50 state capitols."

—U.S. Representative Ellen Tauscher of California

Elected officials DO / DON'T care what I think.

"About 3 out of 5 Americans don't think elected leaders care what they want. But that's not true. People who make laws are very interested in what people like you want and need."

—U.S. Representative David Price of North Carolina

#3

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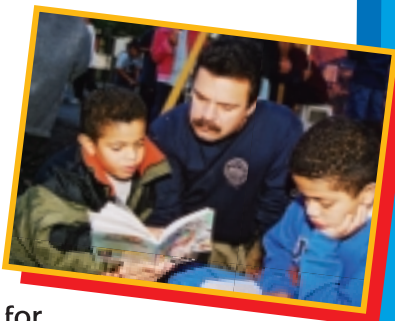
#4

CHOOSE THIS SENTENCE:

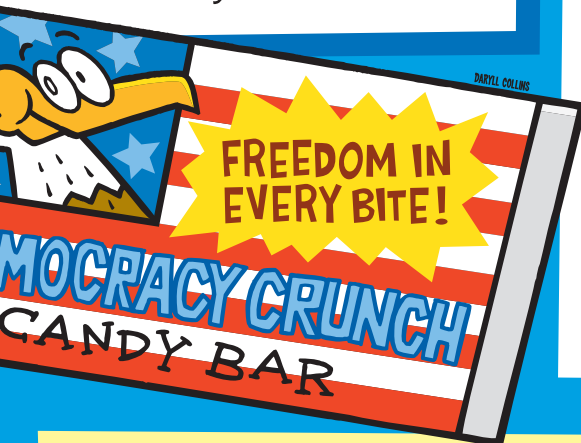
and women who make laws listen to what people want

elect our leaders.

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— *New York State Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz*



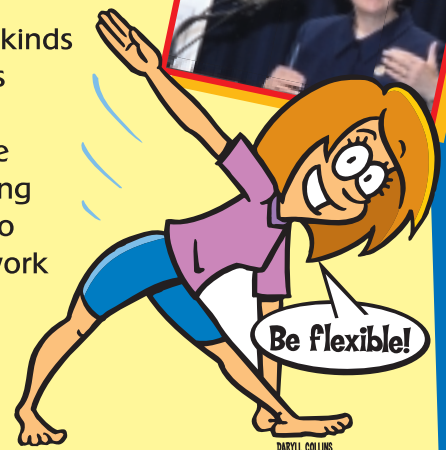
TRUE or FALSE:

Compromise is not about give-and-take. It means giving up your beliefs.

"False! Our country has many kinds of people with different ideas of what they want. Without compromise — being flexible and giving in a little — nothing could get done. Officials try to find ways to pass laws that work well and make the largest number of people happy."

— *Pennsylvania State Representative Ellen Bard*

#5



TRUE or FALSE:

There is a difference between state and federal elected officials.

"True! State legislators work in a state's capitol. They have many jobs. For example, they pass state laws and make sure schools run properly.

"Members of Congress work in Washington, D.C. They pass laws and work on things that affect all of the states. Each state has two U.S. senators. There are also 435 U.S. representatives." — *Utah State Speaker of the House Martin R. Stephens*



#6

What are the responsibilities of U.S. citizens?

- A. voting**
- B. helping out in their communities**
- C. learning about government**
- D. speaking up and letting their ideas be heard**
- E. all of the above**



"We live in a free country. This means we have responsibilities. We can't take our democracy for granted and must keep working together every day."

— *U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine*

#7

START

I'm Seymour.

HELP SEYMOUR SEE MORE!

Show Seymour that government is part of what we do every day. Help him get from "start" to "finish". As you go, circle at least 10 ways that government affects our lives.



STEVE SKELTON

FINISH

BONUS: Find the five purple letters in this picture. Put them in the right order to spell out the answer to our riddle.

QUESTION: What do government officials want to hear?

ANSWER: Your _____ !



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Visit www.representativedemocracy.org for more information.

ANSWERS TO THE MAZE: 1. handicapped entrance 2. car seats 3. car muffler tests 4. police officer 5. bank 6. money 7. U.S. mail 8. public parks 9. clean water 10. fishing licenses 11. streetlights 12. buses 13. roads and bridges 14. school 15. safe food 16. dog licenses and collar 17. courthouses 18. voting 19. library 20. parking meters 21. driver's licenses 22. public pool 23. bicycle helmets 24. beach/lifeguard 25. airplanes 26. U.S. coast guard