

MI OPEN BOOK PROJECT

Community Studies

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Shearer, Carol Bacak-Egbo, Annie McMahon-Whitlock

**Community
Studies**



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Information on the latest version and updates are available on the project homepage: <http://textbooks.wmisd.org/dashboard.html>



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McAnn Bradford

KND Elementary

Kaleva Normon Dickson Schools

Avid lover of all things History and Technology. Loves to find and use new ways to get topics and information to my students. My goal is that every student learns one thing they didn't know each day! When I am not teaching, I am reading, crafting, traveling, and spending time with people .

Tami Cronic

Thomas Edison Elementary

Port Huron Area Schools

Tami received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan with a major in Language Arts and a minor in Social Studies. She obtained her Masters Degree from Marygrove College. She has taught for the Port Huron School District for 14 years, co-coaches an after school enrichment STEAM class, helps with the Running Club, and tutors K-2 students in her spare time. Recently, she was nominated for and accepted a position as active board member for the Port Huron Schools Endowment Fund. Her passions include attending church, watching U of M ball, hiking, Jeep off-roading, and spending time with her husband Rob and 2 children, Paige and Cam.



Tami Morris

Thomas Edison Elementary

Port Huron Area Schools

I earned my bachelors' degree from Western Michigan University in Elementary Education with minors in elementary education, english, and science. My masters degree is in Educational Leadership from Eastern Michigan University. I have been teaching in Port Huron Area Schools for 26 years, I am a single mom of two children; Ashley and Matt. When I am not teaching I like to try my hand at photography, hang out with my kids, friends, or play with my two Yorkies; Elmer and Max.





Vicki Shearer

Holland West K-7

Holland Public Schools

I love my family! My husband, Tom, and I have two sons, Chris and Tim, one daughter in law, Amber, and one future daughter in law, Alina. We love walking on the beach of Lake Michigan from our house. We can often be seen riding bikes, canoeing, or hiking trails. We are trying to visit as many National Parks as we can. We feel very blessed to live in the greatest country of the world!

Carol Bacak-Egbo

Editor

Oakland University Special Lecturer

Carol Egbo has more than 40 years of experience in education as a teacher, curriculum developer, staff development specialist, and social studies consultant. She is currently a special lecturer in the Teacher Development and Educational Studies Department at Oakland University, and a contract consultant for the Oakland Intermediate School District. She has been the project director for two federal Teaching American History Grants, and was the primary curriculum designer and writer for grades 2-6 of the MC3 Project. She has extensive experience in presenting professional development for teachers including summer institutes at University of California-Los Angeles, institutes for the Michigan Department of Education, teacher networks, national and state conferences, teacher seminars sponsored by Michigan State University, Saginaw Valley State University and Oakland University. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the MCSS Elementary teacher of the year award, the MCSS Mentor Award, WDIV/Newsweek Teacher of the Year Award, and the WXYZ Michigan Teacher of the Year award.



David A. Johnson

Project Manager

Michigan Open Book Project

Dave began his career teaching 8th grade United States History in Mesick, Michigan. After almost a decade in the classroom, he took a job at Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District (WMISD) as an Instructional Consultant for Social Studies. He is shared across 11 ISDs in Northern Michigan that form the Northern Michigan Learning Consortium. He completed his Masters in Educational Leadership through Central Michigan University in 2011 and is Co-Project Director of the Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking (PASST) Project in addition to his duties as the Project Manager for MI Open Book.



The Michigan Open Book Project

Special Thanks to:

Jannan Cotto

Dorothy Perry

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Department of Civil Rights



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About the Readers - Community Studies

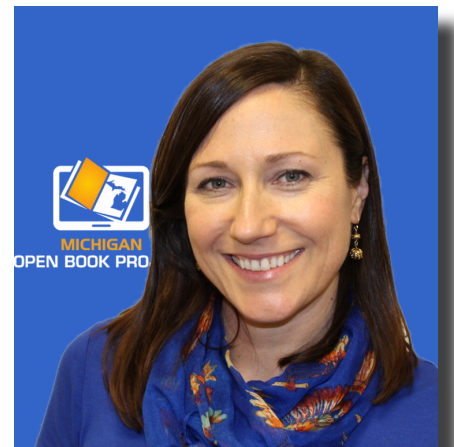


Joseph Baumann -

Joe joined the Cadillac Footlites in 2016, coming from having performed many times on the stage with Riverwalk Theater in Lansing, Michigan. Some of his favorite roles have been Lancelot in Camelot, Captain Scott in Terra Nova, and Nathan Rothschild in the Rothschilds.

Melissa Kendell -

Melissa has enjoyed performing in productions like Into the Woods and a Christmas Story. She's been a part of various charity performances including the annual United Way Murder Mystery and Dancing with the Y Stars.



Kelli Simons -

Kelli has been in many local theater productions including the Mother in a Christmas Story, the Baker's Wife in Into the Woods, Tansy McGinnis in the Nerd. She comes from a talented theatrical family.



Chapter 4

How do people get along together in a community?

Why Do People Need Community Governments?

What Do Community Governments Do?

How are Community Governments Organized?

What Responsibilities do Citizens Have in a Community

For Teachers

Chapter 4 is all about civics. While many teachers may be tempted to do this chapter first, it is placed here for a reason. Many of the concepts introduced in Chapters 1-3 are revisited here. Some of the content from 1st grade may serve as a great review at the start of the year.

Our compelling question is “How do people get along together in a community?”

To illustrate this point we create, much as we do in the third grade book, a fictional location. This fictional place is called Lawless Town. You can probably guess what it's like there! Lawless town is the way we explore the supporting question "Why do people need community governments?" and "Why are laws so important in a community?"

From there we continue our studies by introducing how community governments are organized. This is important ground work for later grades as we explore the three branches of state and federal government in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

No civics chapter would be complete without a discussion on the responsibilities of citizenship. Our final section asks students to consider “What responsibilities do citizens have in a community?” before looping back again to the compelling question.



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Why Do People Need Community Governments?

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. Why Do People Need Community Governments?
2. What Do Community Governments Do?
3. How are Community Governments Organized?
4. What Responsibilities do Citizens Have in a Community?

TERMS:

laws: what rules are called in a community

government: a group of people chosen to make laws and choices for a community

community services: things that a community government does for people living in a community

You have learned that a community is a place where people live, work and play together. In order to do those things people need to get along together! In first grade you learned about how people get along together in classroom. You learned about how people get along together in a school. Now it is time to learn about how people get along together in a community!



What is one way people in your classroom get along together?

People Need Rules!

In first grade you learned that rules help you get along in a classroom. Rules help keep you safe. Rules help keep things fair.

People want to feel safe in their community. People want things to be fair. People want to get along together in their community. For all these reasons communities need rules.

We give another name to rules in a community. We call them laws. **Laws** are what rules are called in a community.



Interactive 4.1 Lawless Town



What would it be like to live in a community without any laws? [Click here to find out!](#)

Would you like to live in Lawless Town? Why or why not?

People Need to Be Safe

People want to feel safe in their community. Would you feel safe in a car in Lawless Town? Probably not! Laws help keep people safe. Lawless Town needs some laws about driving!

What is a Community Government?

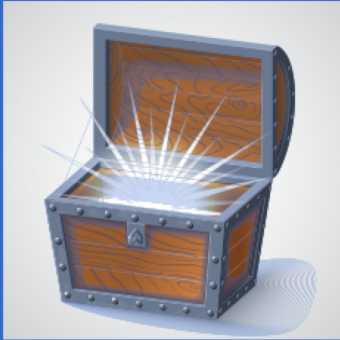

Who makes the rules in your family?
Who makes the rules in your classroom? Who do you think makes the laws in a community?

In a community laws are made by a government. A **government** is a group of people chosen to make laws and choices for a community.



Interactive 4.2 Characteristics of Community Government Leaders

Read each characteristic. If you think community government leaders should have this characteristic put it in the CCC. If you think community government leaders should not have this characteristic put it in the garbage can.



- responsible
- mean
- careless
- fair
- honest
- selfish

Click to check your answers

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You learned that characteristics are ways to describe something. What characteristics do you think community government leaders should have? Click here to decide!

People Need Community Services

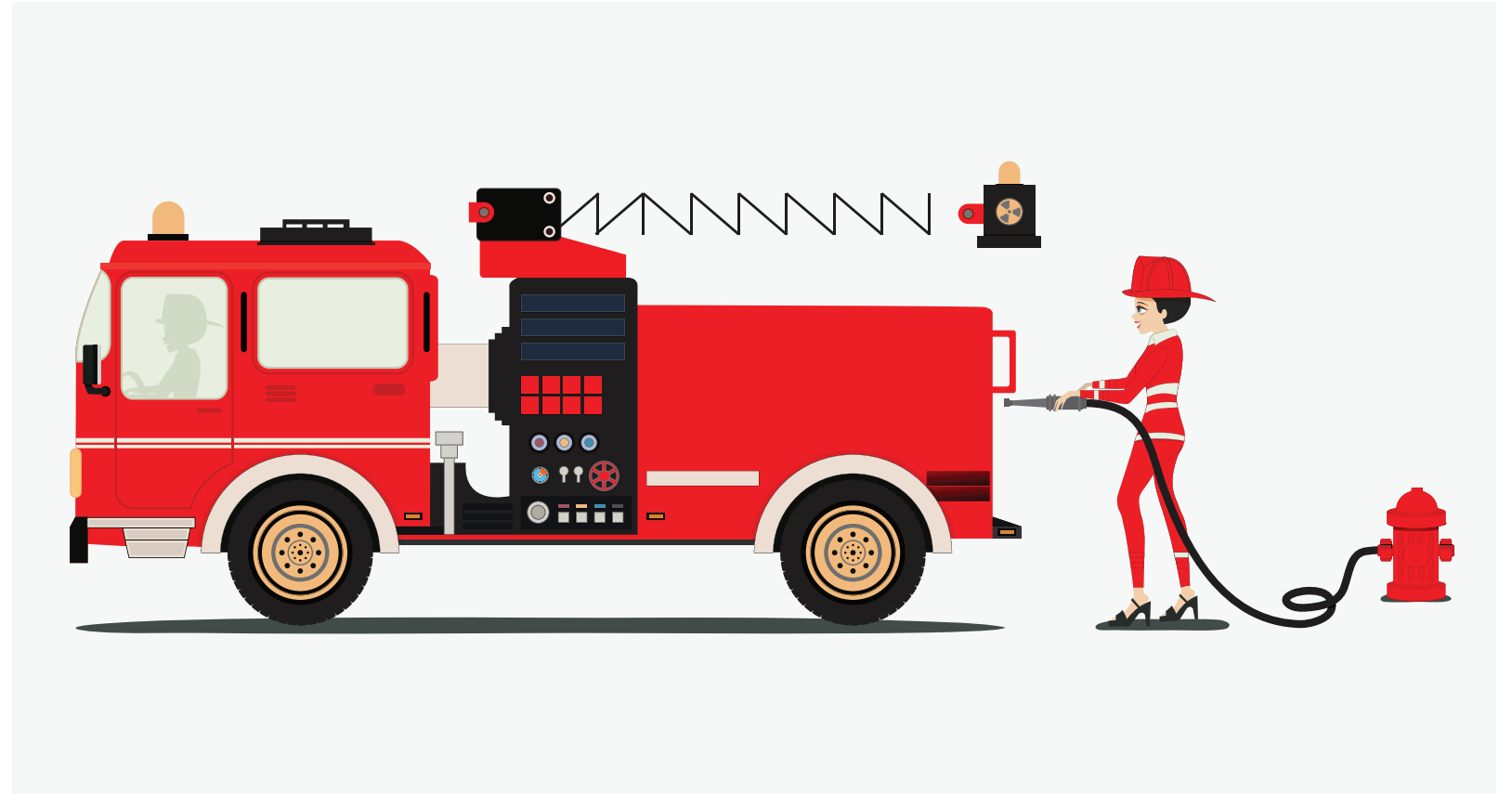
Community governments make laws. Community governments keep people safe. Community governments also provide community services.

In chapter 3 you learned that a service is something someone does for you. **Community services** are things that a community government does for people living in a community.

Lawless Town needed a law about speeding. Would a law be enough? Who would stop the people who were driving too fast? Lawless Town would also need police officers. They could stop the people who were driving too fast. Police officers are a community service. A community government provides police officers.



If your house was on fire. You would call 911. The fire station would send firefighters to put out the fire. Firefighters are another community service. A community government provides firefighters.



What is another community service your community provides?

People Need Help Solving Problems

In your classroom your teacher helps solve problems. In a community the community government helps solve problems.

In Lawless Town people were throwing garbage everywhere. Pretend you lived in Lawless Town. What if you didn't like all that garbage? What could you do? You could go to the community government. You could ask the community leaders to help you solve the problem. Maybe they could pass a law about garbage. Maybe they could have a town clean-up day.



People in a community need laws. Laws help people feel safe in a community. A community government is a group of people chosen to make laws for a community. A community government helps keep people safe. A community government also provides services. It provides police officers. It provides firefighters. A community government also helps people solve problems.

Why Do People Need a Community Government?

A community government makes laws.

A community government keeps people safe.

A community government provides services.

A community government helps solve problems.

Interactive 4.3 Time to Review

Move the words into the right places!

Rules in a community are called _____.

A _____ is a group of people chosen to make laws for a community.

A community government helps keep people _____.

A community government provides _____ like firefighters.

A community government helps people solve _____.

Rules in a community are called **laws**.

A **government** is a group of people chosen to make laws for a community.

A community government helps keep people **safe**.

A community government provides **services** like firefighters.

A community government helps people solve **problems**.

[Click to check your answers](#)

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[Click here to show what you know!](#)

Why Are Laws so Important in a Community?

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. Why Do People Need Community Governments?
2. What Do Community Governments Do?
3. How are Community Governments Organized?
4. What Responsibilities do Citizens Have in a Community?

TERMS

common good: what is best for everybody

individual rights: things a person is allowed to have or to do.

You need rules in your classroom. People in a community need rules, too! In a community rules are called laws.



What is one important rule in your classroom? Why do you have that rule?

Why Do Communities Make Laws?

Students in Mr. Johnson's room were leaving the classroom a mess. Everyday Anita and Susan stayed behind to clean it up. Mr. Johnson thought that wasn't fair. Mr. Johnson made a new rule.

Everyone has to help clean up the classroom at the end of the day.

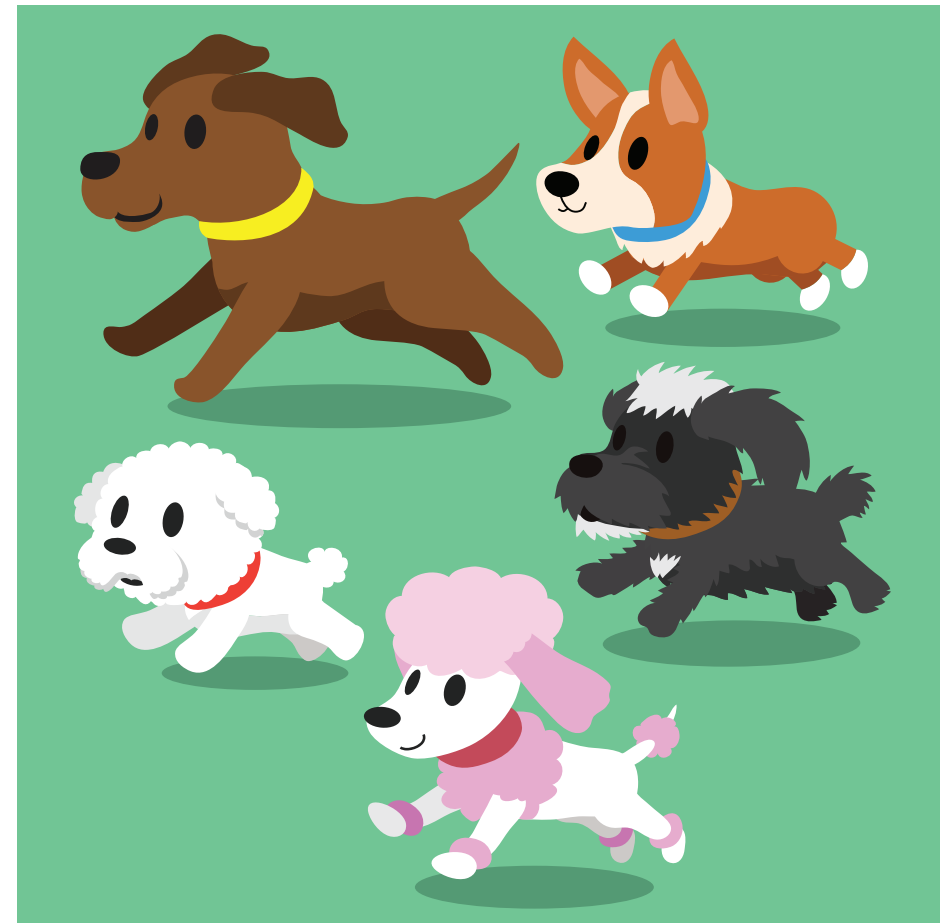


Why did Mr. Johnson make the new rule?

Mr. Johnson made the rule in order to solve a problem. What was the problem?
Students were leaving the classroom a mess. Two students had to clean the mess up.
The same thing happens in communities. Communities make laws in order to solve problems. Read the community law below. What problem do you think the community had?

It is the responsibility of the owner of any dog to keep the dog on the owner's property.

Why did the community need this law? The community had a problem with dogs running loose. The loose dogs were in other people's yards. They sometimes bit people. The loose dogs were sometimes in danger. Cars came close to running into them.



Interactive 4.4 Garbage in Lawless Town



How did Lawless Town try to solve the garbage problem? Click here to find out!

Should Laws Protect People's Rights?

Do you think Mr. Jones liked the new Garbage Law? He probably didn't! He felt it was his right to throw his garbage on his lawn!

When communities make laws they do need to think about the rights of people. These rights are called individual rights. Individual is another name for one person. **Individual rights** are things a person is allowed to have or to do.

What About the Common Good?

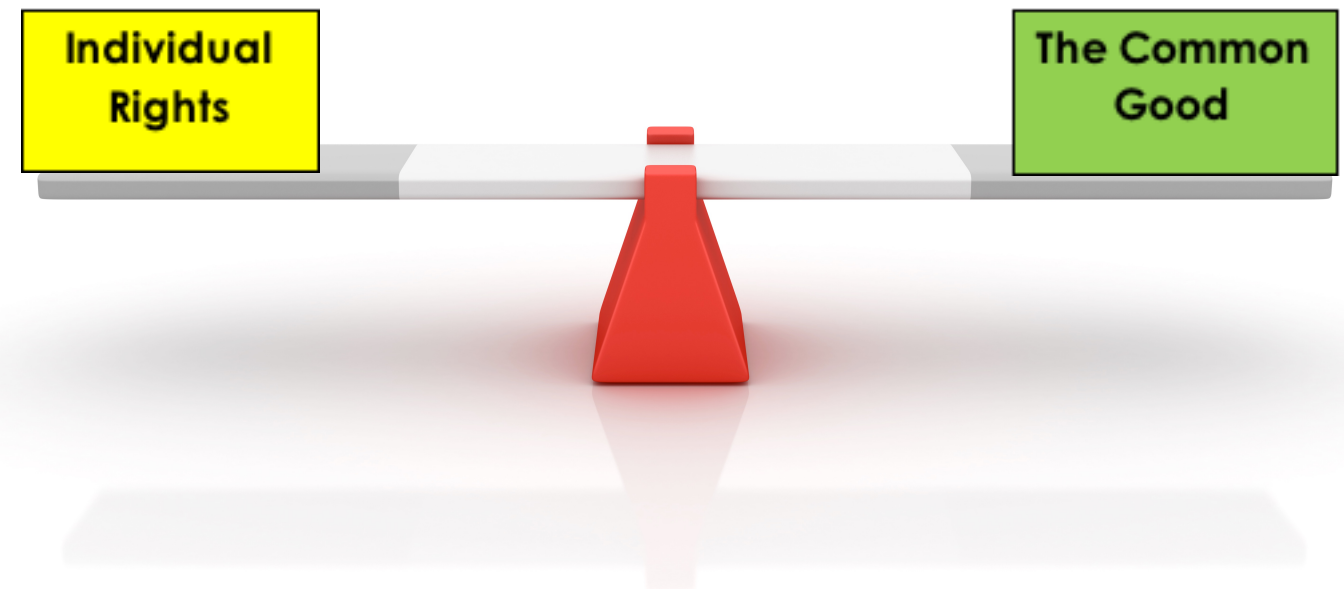
When communities make laws they also have to think about the common good. The **common good** is what is best for everybody. Most people in Lawless Town felt the garbage law would be best for everybody.



Think about a seesaw, or a teeter totter. It can be hard to balance each side. That's why making laws can be hard. A community needs to balance the common good and individual rights. It needs to protect individuals. It also needs to do what is best for everybody.



People in a community make laws to solve problems. Communities have to balance the common good and individual rights. Laws have to do what is best for everybody. Laws also have to protect individual rights.





Work with your teacher and your class to find some of your community laws. Work together to figure out what problems they were trying to solve.

How are Community Governments Organized?

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. Why Do People Need Community Governments?
2. What Do Community Governments Do?
3. How are Community Governments Organized?
4. What Responsibilities do Citizens Have in a Community?

TERMS

election: to choose government leaders by voting

council: a group of people who make the laws in a community

enforce: to make sure people follow laws

mayor: the leader in a community who enforces the laws

interpret: to explain what something means

court: a place where leaders interpret laws and decide the punishment for breaking laws

You learned that laws are very important in a community. Laws help keep people safe. Laws help people get along together. Who makes the laws in a community? Read on to find out!




Who makes the rules in your family? Who makes the rules in your classroom?

Who Makes the Laws in a Community?

You learned that Lawless Town had a new law about garbage. Who made the law?

Interactive 4.5 Making Laws in Lawless Town

The five people with the most votes became the lawmakers.



Next

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Who made the garbage law? Click here to find out!

The people of Lawless Town held an election. They voted on five people to make their laws. Your community also has a group of people who make your laws. In many communities this group is called a council. A **council** is a group of people who make the laws in a community.



Lawless Town has laws now! It needs a new name! Come up with a new name, then, make a welcome sign for the town!



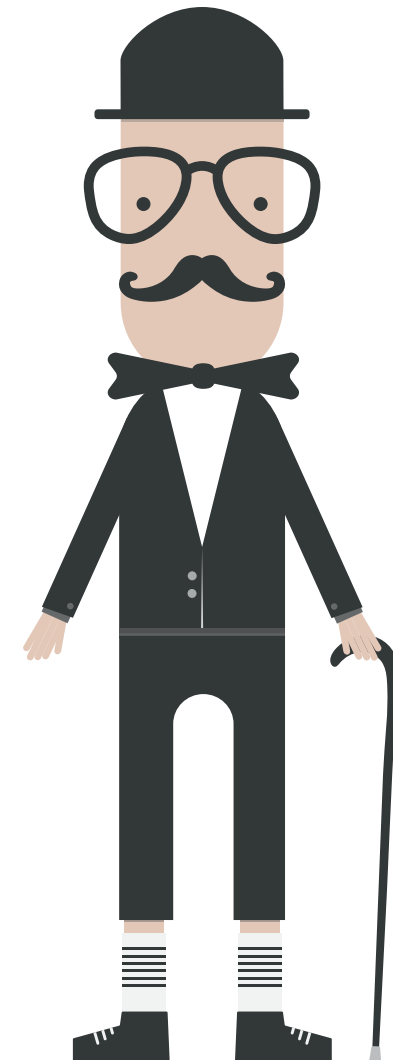
Who Makes Sure People Follow the Laws in a Community?

Communities have a group of people who make the laws. Is that enough to just make laws? What if people don't follow them?

You have rules in your classroom. Who makes sure you follow them? Your teacher! Your teacher reminds you about the rules. Your teacher enforces the rules. **Enforce** means to make sure people follow rules or laws.

Communities have a leader who enforces the rules. In many communities this leader is called a mayor. A **mayor** is a leader who enforces the rules in a community.

A mayor is in charge of the police department in a community. Police officers help the mayor enforce the rules.



What Happens if People Don't Understand a Law?

The garbage law in Lawless Town was easy to understand:

People in Lawless Town have to put their garbage in a garbage can.



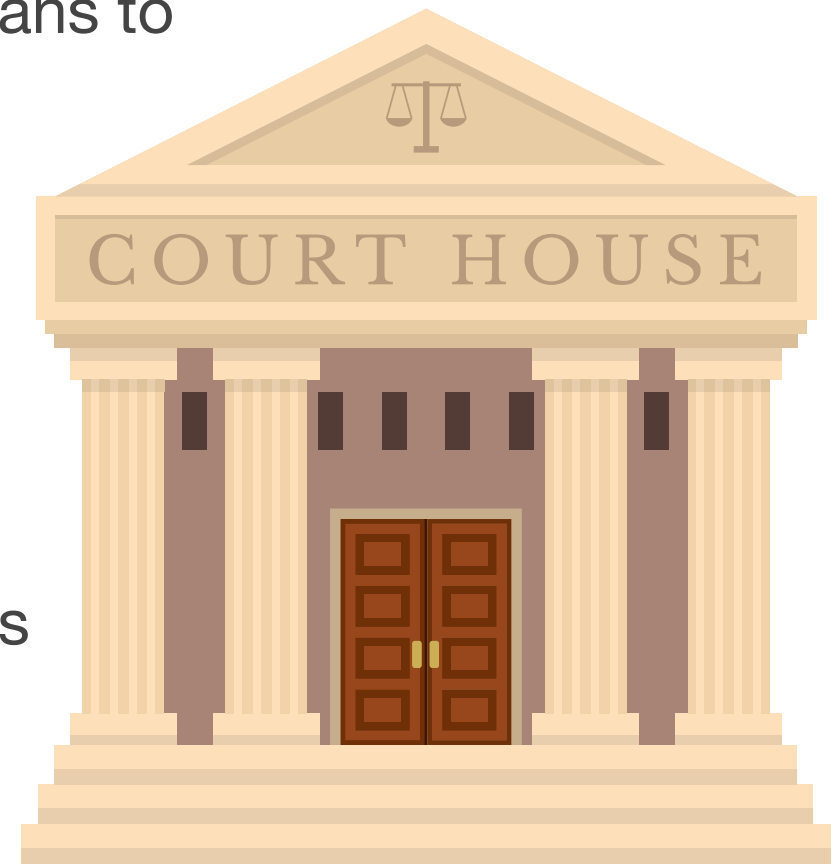
Sometimes laws in a community can be very hard to understand. Look at this law:

It shall be unlawful for any person to accumulate or permit to accumulate upon any public or private property within the Municipality, any garbage, rubbish, bulky waste, or any other municipal or residual solid waste except in accordance with the provision of this Ordinance, and any Department rules and regulations adopted pursuant to Act 97 and Act 101.

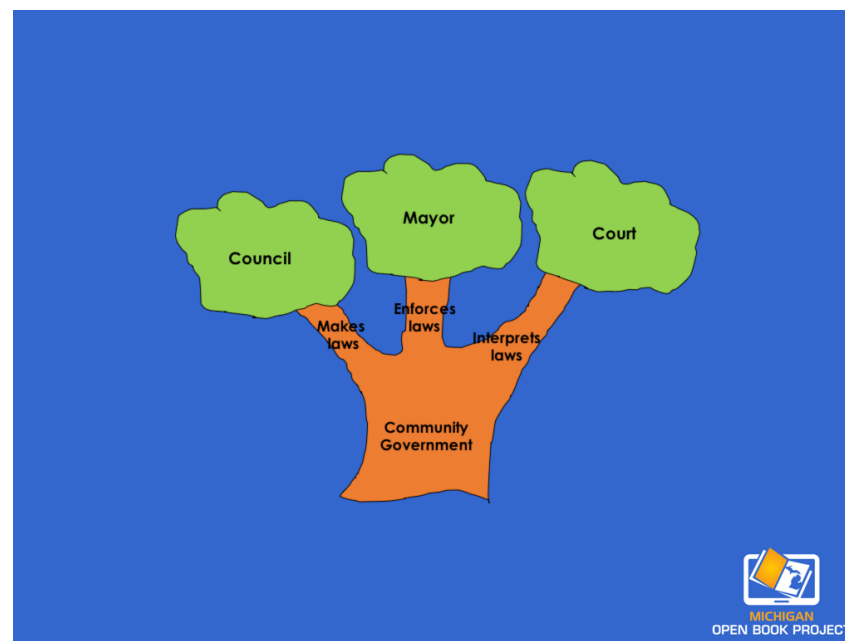
Wow! That law has a lot of big words. Who helps people in a community understand a law like this? Who interprets the law for them? **Interpret** means to explain what something means.

Communities have courts. A **court** is a place where leaders interpret laws. They help people understand what laws mean.

Courts have another important job in a community. A court is also a place where leaders decide the punishment for breaking laws.



Interactive 4.6 The Three Parts of Community Government



[Click here to review the three parts of community government.](#)

Why Do Community Governments Need Three Parts?

Why can't one group do everything in a community? They could make the laws. They could enforce the laws. They could interpret the laws.

Wait! Why can't one person do everything? That person could make the laws. That person could enforce the laws. That person could interpret the laws.



What do you think? Why do community governments need three parts?



Letting one person do everything would give that person a lot of power. That might be a problem. That person might become a bully. That person might make unfair laws.

Letting one group do everything would give that group a lot of power. That might be a problem. That group might become a group of bullies. That group might make unfair laws.

That is why community governments need three parts.
People don't want their leaders to become bullies!





Work with your teacher and your class to find out how your community government is organized.

What Responsibilities do Citizens Have in a Community?

QUESTIONS TO GUIDE INQUIRY

1. Why Do People Need Community Governments?
2. What Do Community Governments Do?
3. How are Community Governments Organized?
4. What Responsibilities do Citizens Have in a Community?

TERMS

responsibilities: things people are supposed to do

personal responsibilities: things individual people are supposed to do

civic responsibilities: things citizens are supposed to do

citizen: a member of a community, state or country

Communities need a government. A government is a group of people chosen to make laws and choices for a community. A community government has a lot of **responsibilities**. The government has to make laws. The government has to keep people safe. The government has to provide services like police officers. The government has to help solve problems.



What are some of your responsibilities at home? What are some of your responsibilities at school?

What about the rest of the people in a community? Do they have any responsibilities? Read on to find out!

What is the Difference Between Personal Responsibilities and Civic Responsibilities?

In first grade you learned about personal responsibilities. **Personal responsibilities** are things an individual person is supposed to do. Brushing your teeth is a personal responsibility. Feeding your pet is a personal responsibility. Helping keep your home clean is a personal responsibility. Everybody in a community has personal responsibilities.



People in a community also have civic responsibilities. **Civic responsibilities** are things a citizen is supposed to do. A citizen is a member of a community, state or country. Helping keep the community clean is a civic responsibility.



What are Some Important Civic Responsibilities?

The community government is responsible for making laws.

What civic responsibility do citizens have when it comes to laws? Do citizens need to sing a song about the laws? Do citizens need to paint a picture of the laws?

Of course not! Citizens need to obey, or follow, the laws. Obeying the laws is a civic responsibility.



Why do you think obeying the laws is an important civic responsibility?

Voting is another important civic responsibility. Remember how the people of Lawless Town used voting to choose their leaders. In your community people choose leaders by voting too!

Interactive 4.7 Voting

Is Mr. Northcross showing civic responsibility? Put the circle on the correct answer.

YES NO

I will vote for the same person Bob is voting for.

Click to check your answer

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The interactive interface is set against a solid blue background. At the top, a white rectangular box contains the question: "Is Mr. Northcross showing civic responsibility? Put the circle on the correct answer." Below this box are two options, "YES" and "NO", in black capital letters. To the right of the "NO" option, a red circle is drawn on the blue background, indicating a selection. In the center, a white rectangular box contains a cartoon illustration of a man with dark skin, wearing a light blue jacket over a white shirt and tan pants. A speech bubble from the man says, "I will vote for the same person Bob is voting for." In the bottom right corner, there is a yellow button with the text "Click to check your answer" and a logo for the "MICHIGAN OPEN BOOK PROJECT" which includes a stylized map of Michigan.

Why is voting such an important civic responsibility?

You just learned that it is not enough to just vote. You need to vote wisely. You need to learn about the people you are voting for. You need to vote for the person you think will do the best job.

Interactive 4.8 Review

Place the responsibilities in the right place.

Brushing your teeth

Helping to clean up a park

Cleaning your bedroom


Voting for a new mayor

Obeying laws

Feeding your pet

Personal Responsibilities	Civic Responsibilities

Click to check your answers



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Time to show what you know! Click here to sort civic and personal responsibilities!