

# Civics, the Economy, and You

Your daily life is affected by your community, the economy, and the government. Government provides services and structure for communities.



If a man or boy was a citizen (women had some rights but could not be citizens), he had many privileges. Roman citizens had the right to vote and had a say in the way their country was run. Citizens had duties, too, such as paying taxes, attending assembly meetings, and serving in the Roman army.

Citizens today have rights and responsibilities that differ from country to country. For example, many countries allow their citizens to vote, but some do not. Most nations require their citizens to pay taxes, just as Rome did. Some countries, such as Israel, require all citizens—men and women—to serve in the military. The rights and duties of citizens depend on their country's type of government. A **government** is the organizations, institutions, and individuals who exercise political authority over a group of people.

## Being an American Citizen

Under the American system of government, citizens have many rights and responsibilities. Your civics course will help you understand those rights and responsibilities. You will discover that being a U.S. citizen means more than just enjoying the rights that the American system provides.

Citizenship includes being a productive and active member of society. Americans participate in society in many ways. For example, most Americans belong to a family, go to school for several years, and work with other people. Americans are also members of their local communities—villages, towns, and cities. And in the United States, you are a citizen of both your country and the state in which you live. Being an effective American citizen means fulfilling your duties and responsibilities as a member of each of these various groups and communities.

WE THE PEOPLE 7

## Direct Teach

### Reading Focus

1 Why do we study civics?

### Why Study Civics?

**Identify** What are some ways Americans participate in society? *They belong to a family, go to school, are members of their communities, and are state and U.S. citizens.*

**Contrast** How are the responsibilities of citizens in different countries different? *Citizens of some countries are required to serve in the military or pay taxes, while citizens of other countries are not.*

**Predict** In what ways might being a member of a family and community help a person learn to be a good citizen? *Possible answer: People in families and communities have rights and responsibilities similar to those of citizens. People often learn to be responsible, productive, and sharing from their experiences in their family and community.*

### Reading Skill

**Activity** Ask students to read aloud the sentence on p. 7 that contains the highlighted word “government.” Then have students define the word. (*the organizations, institutions, and individuals who exercise political authority over a group of people*) Have students explain how they found this definition. (*It is a direct definition and follows the phrase “A government is...”*) Ask students to point out other places in the chapter where words appear with a direct definition. Remind students that they can also use context clues such as comparisons or contrasts to help them define unfamiliar words.

## Collaborative Learning

At Level

### Dramatize Rights and Responsibilities

1. As a class, briefly review the rights and responsibilities of citizens in both ancient Rome and the present-day United States.
2. Organize students into small groups. Assign each group either ancient Rome or the present-day United States.
3. Ask each group to make up a skit about citizens of their assigned time and place fulfilling their rights and responsibilities.
4. Have each group perform its skit for the class. The class should guess whether it takes place in ancient Rome or modern America and identify the rights and responsibilities it shows. **IS Verbal/Linguistic, Kinesthetic**

Alternative Assessment Handbook: Rubric 33: Skits and Reader's Theater