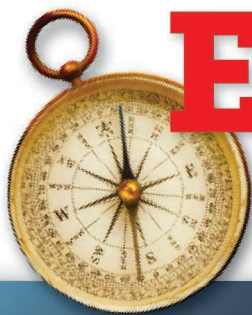


Weekly Explorer

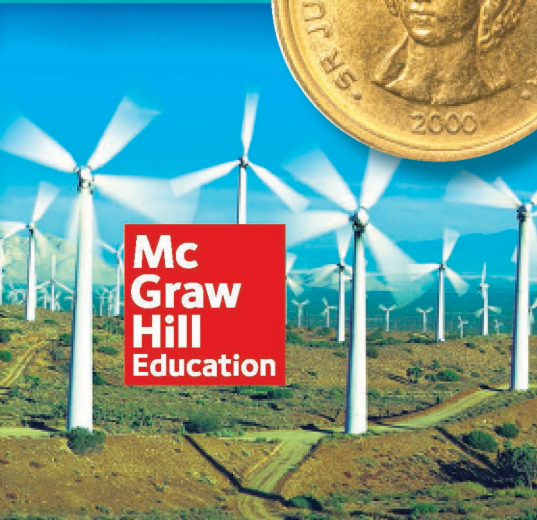
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Chapter 4

How Government Works



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Why is it important to stop at a stop sign?



Who needs to wear a seatbelt?



This child is taking out the garbage.



What laws are the children following?



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Tree Musketeers

Kids in El Segundo, California are looking out for the environment!


It all started when a group of third graders planted a tree on city property. They called themselves Tree Musketeers and got other kids to join. Tree Musketeers wanted to do more. So they asked the adults in their city **government**. They got permission to plant more trees on city land.

The kids had studied tree-planting and they knew just what to do. City government members,

Tree Musketeers has planted thousands of trees around El Segundo.



(t) Paul Paladini/Alamy Stock Photo, (c) CHOA/photographer/Shutterstock.com, (b) Lori Adamski Peek/The Image Bank/Getty Images



parents, and others in town wanted to help. So they helped out and took orders from the kids! Tree Musketeers won many awards for service in their community. They even won awards from a few presidents of the United States!

Over the years, the organization believes it has planted nearly 2,000 trees in and near El Segundo. Trees help keep the air clean.

Maybe you could help, too!

Another Great Citizen!

Joe Biden was the Vice President under President Obama. He also was a Senator for 36 years. He has worked hard to help people find jobs as well as reduce violence. He has done a long list of things to help people in the United States. He received the Medal of Freedom for his service to our country from President Obama. He is an amazing citizen!

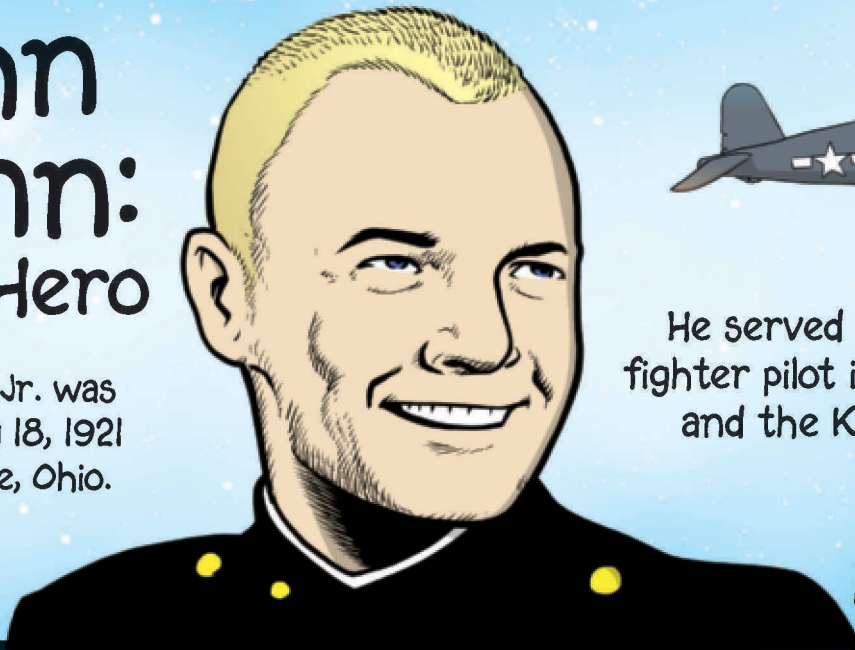
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WordBlast

How does the word *city* help you understand the word **government**?

John Glenn: Space Hero

John Glenn Jr. was born on July 18, 1921 in Cambridge, Ohio.



He served as a Marine fighter pilot in World War II and the Korean War.

ART:
EUREKA
COMICS

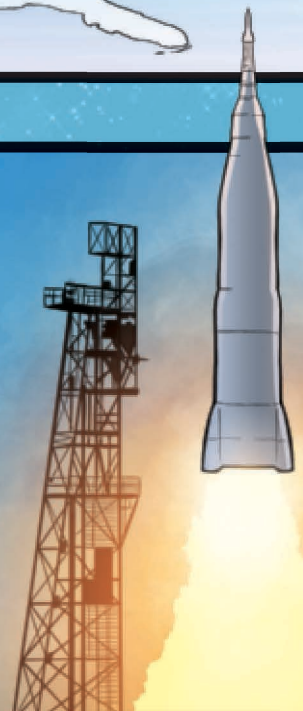
In 1957, John was part of Project Bullet. He flew at supersonic speed. He flew faster and farther than anyone before him!



In 1959, John was chosen to train for the new U.S. Space Program.



In 1962, the whole country watched and listened as John blasted off aboard Friendship 7.



On that mission, he became the first American to orbit, or go around, Earth.



John had to control the capsule manually after some systems failed. He saved the mission!

After he left NASA, John served as a senator from Ohio for 25 years.

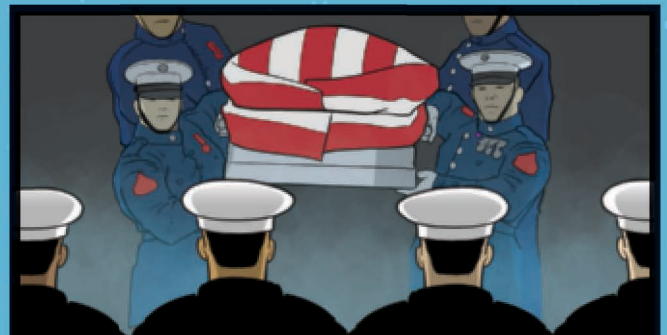


John went back to NASA in 1998. He was the oldest astronaut to fly in space.



Just because I'm 77 doesn't mean I don't have a dream.

John Glenn was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross six times! He was also honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, and many other awards.



John Glenn died in 2016 at the age of 95. He led a very exciting life!

Be Safe on the Road!

As times change, **laws** must change, too! Years ago, there were no laws about texting while driving. Why not? Because, texting had not been invented yet!

Now, many people use cell phones. So new laws had to be made to keep drivers safe.

Let's look at the new laws made in California over the years!

Explore the Timeline

Answer the questions about the timeline.

- How can you describe the changes in the laws over the years?
- Which law must people besides the driver obey while in a car?



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1

The Click It or Ticket law requires everyone to wear a seatbelt.

2

Drivers may not hold a phone to text or call while driving. Their hands must be free.



"Hi, we're in the car and will be there soon!"

3

No driver may write, read, or send a text while behind the wheel.

4

Now, drivers may not use their cell phones for any reason while driving.

WordBlast

How is a law like a rule?

The Rights of a Child



Some laws are not just for a community, state, or country. Some laws are for countries all over the world. UNICEF is an **international** group that protects the rights of children. They help them stay healthy and go to school.

UNICEF also works to pass child labor laws. These are laws that keep children from having to work when they are too young. In some places, there are no child labor laws. Children must work many long hours for very low pay. The work is often very difficult.

UNICEF is a good citizen of the world!

UNICEF
flag



(b)itoOnz/Shutterstock.com



WordBlast

How does the text help you understand what the word **international** means?

Perspectives

Laws Change

Laws are made for a reason. Some might protect wildlife or prevent crime. Others might have been there for so long that they sound silly now.

Just think about these laws!

- It is against the law in California for a dog to chase a bear or a bobcat.
- If you want to have a rhinoceros in Norco, California, you have to get a permit.
- In Los Angeles County, it is illegal to throw a Frisbee on the beach without permission from a lifeguard.

Changing a law is the job of a government. Since you are a citizen, you can tell your government leaders that they might want to change these laws!



(t)Ashley Jouhar/Alamy Stock Photo, (b)Eric Isselee/Shutterstock.com, (br)Christian Musat/Shutterstock.com

Take Action!

More to Explore

Here are more ideas for you to think about!

Choose a way you could be a good citizen.

Why might it be important to understand some international laws?

Write down some reasons it is important to follow laws.

WordBlast

What kinds of things does the **government** do for people?

In the Olympics, people from all over compete in sports. How are the Olympics **international**?

Give an example of a **law** in your town.



Reflect

Why do we need government?