



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



DEMOCRACY = _____ ?

TEACHER'S GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

DEAR EDUCATOR,

The puzzle set included in your classroom's pre-visit kit is meant to be completed by your students during their bus ride to the National Constitution Center. The puzzles work best when solved by students in pairs or small groups, such as by two students sharing a bus seat, but they can also be solved by students working alone. The puzzles take about 30 minutes to solve for middle school students.

BEFORE SOLVING

Before beginning to solve the puzzles, students should note the unfinished equation at the top of the first page: DEMOCRACY = _____. An unusual feature of the first three puzzles that follow is that, after they are solved, their answers are all used in the fourth and final puzzle to complete the equation. Students will need to solve all three puzzles to be able to solve the final puzzle.

HELPING

We encourage you to help students if they get stuck. Not only are the puzzles meant to be fun, but students who don't solve all the puzzles will miss out on seeing how they all come together to yield one final, interesting answer. You might find it easiest to help if you first try your hand at the puzzles yourself. If you do solve, please don't read any further here until you're done, as the answers are all given on these pages.

1

LIBERTY

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

This puzzle in particular is designed to encourage cooperation between students working together. The best way to solve it is by speaking out loud and listening to the sounds of the words. This puzzle will take the most time of any of the puzzles, and will probably be most students' favorite.

HOW TO HELP

If students get stuck on a particular clue, encourage them to think about words associated with parts of the clue and then look for those pieces in the words remaining in their grid. For example, for Clue 12, "Top floor of a house used in the fall season," you might say, "What's another word for the fall season?" (autumn) or "What's another word for the top floor of a house?" (attic), and suggest that students look for words in the grid with pieces that sound like those words (AUTOMATIC: autumn attic).

ANSWERS

1. CAPSIZE (cap size)
2. SELFISH (sell fish)
3. MATRIX (May tricks)
4. CARTOONS (car tunes)
5. ANNOUNCE (an ounce)
6. PACIFIER (pass a fire)
7. DONATION (dough nation)
8. INTENSE (in tents)
9. POLYGON (Polly gone)
10. TOUCANS (two cans)
11. ARTIFICIAL (art official)
12. AUTOMATIC (autumn attic)
13. HARMONY (harm a knee)

The answer to the puzzle is **QUIETLY** (from the unused words QUARTERBACK, UNICORN, ILLEGAL, ESCALATOR, THESAURUS, LITERAL, and YARDSTICK).

VERIFYING THE ANSWER

The answer word can be used to complete the sentence appearing below the answer boxes: "Because we are each free to speak our opinion, even one voice **QUIETLY** speaking the truth can sway the thoughts of millions."

2

EQUALITY

TAKING PART

This puzzle involves picture identification and anagramming. Please be sure that your students' copies of the puzzle pages are good enough to make out all the pictures.

HOW TO HELP

If students get stuck identifying a particular picture, encourage them to think of more than one possible name for the picture, and also to use the letters from the other picture in the pair to help get the answer. You can also suggest that they move on to the next pair and go back to the difficult one later. The technique of "backsolving" is also very helpful here:

Students may be able to figure out the final answer word, REJECT, from just some of its letters, and then use that information to help solve a picture pair.

ANSWERS

- R (anchors – R = nachos)
- E (elbow – E = bowl)
- J (jester – J = trees)
- E (cakes – E = sack)
- C (scale – C = seal)
- T (tractor – T = carrot)

The answer to the puzzle is **REJECT**.

VERIFYING THE ANSWER

The answer word can be used to complete the sentence appearing below the answer boxes: "The public has the real power; it can **REJECT** the entire government with nothing but its vote."

3

JUSTICE

THE RIGHT STUFF

In this puzzle, students inspect each sentence carefully for a one-letter mistake. Solving does not require detailed knowledge of the Constitution or the Bill of Rights; each error has formed a word that is clearly out of place, and the word that belongs there should be familiar in the context of the sentence.

HOW TO HELP

If students get stuck on a sentence, first see if they can identify which word sounds out of place, then encourage them to think of what letter could change to get a word that makes sense. You can also suggest that they move on to the next sentence and go back to the difficult one later. As in Puzzle 2, the technique of "backsolving" is also very helpful here:

Students may be able to figure out the final answer word, ABILITY, from just some of its letters, and then use that information to help solve a sentence.

ANSWERS

- A (branches/brunches)
- B (bear/fear)
- I (informed/unformed)
- L (lawbreaker/jawbreaker)
- I (decided/decoded)
- T (created/creased)
- Y (say/saw)

The answer to the puzzle is **ABILITY**.

VERIFYING THE ANSWER

The answer word can be used to complete the sentence appearing below the answer boxes: "Our **ABILITY** to assert our rights is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights."

FINAL PUZZLE

DEMOCRACY = ?

For the final puzzle, students will need the final answer words to all three previous puzzles before getting started. When they've solved those puzzles, they should write their three answers (QUIETLY, REJECT, and ABILITY) in the numbered boxes provided. Students should then follow the instructions carefully for crossing out the letters of their answer words from the words LIBERTY, EQUALITY, and JUSTICE to get the final answer and complete the equation **DEMOCRACY = _____**.

HOW TO HELP

If students have trouble understanding the instructions, be sure that they are crossing out letters in the words LIBERTY, EQUALITY, and JUSTICE in the large box, not in the answer words they have written in the small boxes at the top of the page. Also be sure that they are crossing out *just one letter* every time a matching letter appears in their answer words. You could give them the example that they should start with the Q in QUIETLY and cross off the corresponding Q in EQUALITY (the only Q in the box), then look at the next letter, the U in QUIETLY, and cross off *either* the U in EQUALITY *or* the U in JUSTICE, and continue in that fashion. When they're done, students should have just two letters remaining: U and S.

ANSWERS

DEMOCRACY = US ("us" or "U.S.")

Important!

Note that this answer has two equally valid meanings:

1. Democracy = "us" because a democratic society depends on us, the people.
2. Democracy = U.S., because the United States is a democracy.

AFTER SOLVING

Once everyone is finished, see which students interpreted the answer to mean "us," which students interpreted it to mean "U.S.," and which saw both answers. See who can explain the significance of both meanings.

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