

Social Studies

Unit 3 Study Guide

TEST: _____

Laws:

- Are important in a community because **they keep people safe.**
 - examples: **stopping at a red light**, going the speed limit

Local Governments:

- provide services for its citizens
 - examples: **schools, parks, police department**
- help its citizens:
 - examples: picking up trash, fixing traffic lights, **repaving the roads**
- are organized into what we call **the 3 branches:**
 - **The mayor enforces the laws.**
 - **The court interprets the laws and must decide what a law means.**
 - **The city council makes the laws.**
- Types of Action:
 - **Government action:** Things a government or people working for a government do.
 - Example: **putting up a street light**
 - **Private action:** Things a private person does.
 - Example: **taking out your garbage**

Core Democratic Values:

- The Common Good: People working together for the benefit of everybody
 - Example: **Local laws that limit the speed of a city street protect the common good; Someone cutting their grass so the community will look nice is a decision for the common good.**
- **Individual Rights: Something that people are entitled to have or do.**
 - Example: The right to speak freely, practice your own religion

Diversity:

- **means that everyone is different.**
- Diversity is seen in differences in: foods, languages, religions, traditions
 - Example: **People celebrate different holidays including Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Hanukka. This shows diversity.**

Patriotism:

- We show patriotism in many ways.
 - When you **say the Pledge of Allegiance**, it means that **you promise to be loyal to the ideals of the United States**.
- We have important symbols for our country.
 - Example: **American flag**

Roles and Responsibilities of **Citizens (an individual member of a community)**:

- Civic responsibility – Things members of a community are supposed to do.
 - Example: **2nd graders cleaning up trash in a local park**
- Personal responsibility – Things individual people are supposed to do.
 - Example: **cleaning your bedroom**
- Making decisions – A fair way for a group of people to make a decision is to **take a vote**.

On this test, you will be asked to write down your answer for one question. To practice, answer the following question on the lines below:

Your teacher is trying to decide whether to buy new computers for the classroom OR new books for the classroom library. She can't buy both. Explain what you think would be best for your classroom. Give at least two reasons for your opinion.
