Name _____ Date _____

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens

Directions: Read the passage first. Every answer can be found in it.

Rights and Responsibilities

A **right** is a freedom that the law protects. A **responsibility** is something a person should do.

The Constitution of the United States protects many rights. Some rights belong to everyone who lives in the country. One is freedom of speech. You can share your ideas out loud or in writing. You can share them even when other people disagree. Another is freedom of religion. People can worship in their own way. They can also choose not to worship at all.

Some rights belong only to citizens. A citizen is a member of a country. Voting for president is one of these rights. To vote for president, a person must be a citizen. The person must also be at least 18 years old.

Rights come with responsibilities. Everyone in the country should obey the laws. People pay taxes. Taxes help pay for schools, roads and parks. Citizens may also be asked to serve on a jury. A jury is a group of citizens who listen to a trial and help decide it.

Kids have responsibilities, too. You can follow the rules at school. You can help keep your neighborhood clean. When you speak up, you can let others have a turn, too. That way, all of our rights are protected.

1. Match each word from the passage to its meaning.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Right
2. _____ Responsibility
3. _____ Citizen
4. _____ Jury

Choices for question 1

A. A freedom that the law protects
B. A person who leads a city
C. Something a person should do
D. A member of a country
E. A group of citizens who listen to a trial and help decide it

2. Which right belongs to everyone who lives in the country?

A. Freedom of speech B. Voting for president C. Serving on a jury

3. What does freedom of religion let people do?

A. Make new laws for their town

B. Worship in their own way, or not worship at all

C. Skip paying taxes

D. Vote for president at any age

4. Ben does not like his friend's idea for a class project. Can his friend still share the idea?

A. No, because only grown-ups can share ideas.

B. Yes, but only if Ben says it is okay.

C. No, because Ben does not agree with it.

D. Yes, because people can share ideas even when others disagree.

5. Maya is a citizen of the United States. She is 9 years old. Why can't she vote for president yet?

A. She is not a citizen. B. Kids do not have any rights.

C. She is not 18 years old yet. D. She does not pay taxes.

6. Which responsibility belongs to everyone in the country?

A. Writing new laws B. Serving on a jury

C. Voting for president D. Obeying the laws

7. Use words from the passage to fill in the blanks.

Word bank
votes • juries • rules • taxes

People pay _____ to help pay for schools, roads and parks. At school, kids can show responsibility by following the _____.

8. According to the passage, what is one way kids can help their neighborhood?

A. Help keep it clean B. Vote for the mayor

C. Make new laws for it D. Serve on a jury

9. The passage says that when you speak up, you can let others have a turn, too. Why does that matter?

A. So that all of our rights are protected

B. So that nobody ever disagrees

C. So that you never have to share your ideas

D. So that only grown-ups can talk