

Our Democracy: Government

Our Government at Work

Recommended books



- **Big Frank's Fire Truck** by Leslie McGuire (ages 3-6)
- **Busy, Busy Town** by Richard Scarry (ages 3-6)
- **D Is for Democracy: A Citizen's Alphabet** by Elissa Grodin (ages 6-9)
- **Dear Mr. Rosenwald** by Carole Boston Weatherford (ages 6-9)
- **Delivering Your Mail** by Ann Owen (ages 3-6)
- **Helpers in Your Neighborhood** by Shira Evans (ages 3-6)
- **Look Where We Live! A First Book of Community Building** by Scot Ritchie (ages 4-8)
- **Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans** by Phil Bildner (ages 6-9)
- **Miss Moore Thought Otherwise** by Jan Pinborough (ages 6-9)
- **Out and About at City Hall** by Nancy Garhan Attebury (ages 6-9)
- **Tomás and the Library Lady** by Pat Mora (ages 4-8)

Our Democracy: Government

Activity: Government I.D.

Play:

- [Counties Work](#): Running a county is a lot of work! Manage things well, balance the budget, keep citizens safe, and try to get re-elected. (iCivics, free registration required)
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Supplies

- Scavenger hunt template (included in this packet)
 - Cell phone camera or digital camera
 - Gold, red, white, and blue foil star stickers (optional)
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Let's get started!

Read a few of the recommended books together with kids. Some of the titles are about how government works in our democracy. Others feature stories about people and services in our community supported by federal, state, or local governments — such as firefighters, mail carriers, sanitation workers, libraries, and schools.

Thanks to the books you've read and discussed together, kids are getting the picture that our government is not something that is far away in Washington, D.C., or even your state capital.

Evidence of our government is right on your own street and in your neighborhood! A great way to reinforce this understanding is by taking kids on a scavenger hunt for things that represent government activity in your community.

Use the checklist on the next page, add to it, or create your own. Traditionally, a scavenger hunt is a game that involves players collecting items from a list. Whoever collects all or the most items is the winner. This scavenger hunt makes use of your cell phone camera or digital camera. You and your child collect photos of items on the list and earn 5 points for each item collected. Earn 2 bonus points for noting which are items or services provided by the federal, state, or local government.

Our Democracy: Our Government

Activity: Government I.D.

We took a photo of	Points	Federal, state, or local service? (bonus points)	Total
Postage stamp			
Penny or other U.S. coin			
Driver's license			
License plate			
Library card			
Public school			
Public library			
Park			
Police car			
Fire truck			
Speed limit sign			
Traffic light			
Mailbox			
Bridge or hwy overpass			
Fire hydrant			
GRAND TOTAL			

Scoring

How did you do? 75 – 105 points: Excellent! The Liberty Bell is ringing for you! You're a real Uncle Sam! 50 – 75 points: Great! Bring out the fireworks! You're a dandy Yankee Doodle! 25 – 50 points: You're more wild turkey than bald eagle. Keep trying! 0 – 25 points: You're bringing up the end of the parade. Keep trying!

