



Democracy for Daisies

Do you know what the word “government” means? It’s a big word for something important! When a group of people live together—in a town, city, state, or country—they follow rules. These rules, and the people who make the rules, are called the government. Find out more in this badge!

Steps

1. Find out about local government
2. Find out about state government
3. Find out about national government

Purpose

When I’ve earned this badge, I will have learned about the people who work together in my government.



Words to Know

A **citizen** is a member of a community, state, or country. The United States is a **democracy**, which means that citizens help decide how the country is run. They share their opinions by voting in elections.

Every step has two choices.
Do ONE choice to complete
each step. Inspired?
Do more!

STEP

1 Find out about local government

The people who make the rules in your city or town are called the local government. Even the smallest town has one! Learn more about your local government in this step.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

☐ **Visit your local town office, city hall, or mayor's office.** Take a field trip with your friends or family and talk to someone there about your local government. Have them explain the different kinds of jobs that are done. Ask any other questions you can think of.

OR

☐ **Talk to an expert.** Have an adult help you find an expert who can talk to you about your local government. This could be someone elected to local office, a teacher, a lawyer, or a judge. Have them explain the jobs that are done in your local government. Ask any other questions you can think of.

STEP

2 Find out about state government

The government for your state is called the state government. There are three parts of the state government. They are called the three branches of government—like parts of a tree!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

☐ **Visit your state capitol building.** Take a field trip with your friends or family and talk to someone there about how your state government works. Ask any questions you can think of. When you get home, draw a picture of the building and talk to your family about what you saw.

OR

☐ **Write to your governor.** A governor is kind of like the president of your state. Like the president, a governor is chosen by people who vote in elections. Have an adult help you find out who your governor is and what kinds of things they do. Then have them help you write a letter to your governor. You can tell the governor something you'd like to change or ask about the things they do to help kids in your state.



The White House





Who Can Be President?

There are three big rules about who is allowed to be president of the United States. The president must:

1. Be born a citizen of the United States.
2. Be at least 35 years old.
3. Have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.

That's it! The president can be a man or a woman. It doesn't matter where in the United States they live, what they look like, or anything else. Have you ever thought that you'd like to be president one day? Or do you know someone who you think might make a great president?

STEP 3 Find out about national government

The government for the whole country is called the national government. Just like the state government, it has three branches. One branch is the office of the president. People over the age of 18 can vote for president of the United States every four years.

Do you know who the president is now? Learn more about presidents in this step.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

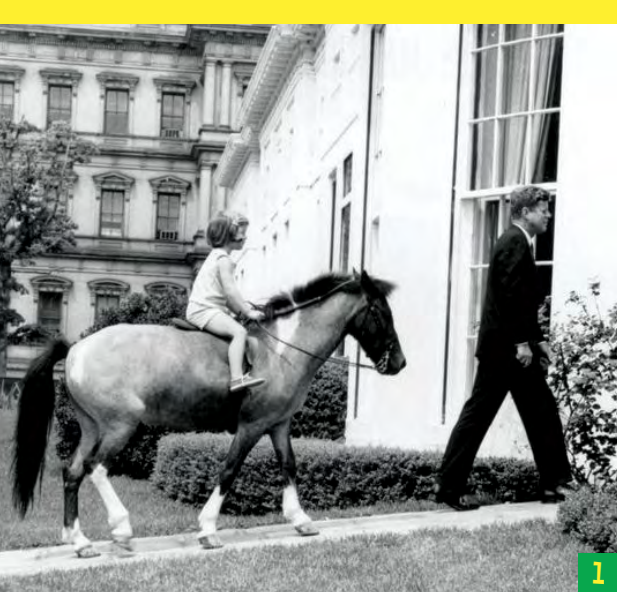
- ☐ **Make the president's house.** Every president moves into the White House. It is a special house in the capital of the United States, Washington, D.C. They live there until a new president is elected. You can see a picture of the White House on pages four and five. With your family or Girl Scout friends, draw or paint your own picture of it or build it out of modeling clay.

OR

- ☐ **Read about presidents.** With help from an adult, find a book for kids about a president from history. Read it together and talk about the book, then draw a picture of yourself as president. If you were president, what would you do to help people?

1. President Kennedy's daughter, Caroline, had a pony named Macaroni.
2. President Nixon and his family loved dogs! These three were called Pasha, Vicky, and King Timahoe.
3. President Obama's family had two dogs at the White House. Their names were Bo and Sunny.
4. President Teddy Roosevelt's son Archie had a pony named Algonquin.
5. A cat named Socks lived with President Clinton's family.
6. President Carter's daughter, Amy, had a dog named Grits.
7. President Coolidge and his family had lots of pets at the White House, including many dogs.
8. President Reagan had a dog named Rex.

1. Robert Knudsen, White House Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston; 2. Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum/NARA; 3. Official White House Photo by Pete Souza; 4. Frances Benjamin Johnston Collection (Library of Congress); 5. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum; 6. Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum/NARA; 7. National Photo Company Collection (Library of Congress); 8. Courtesy Reagan Presidential Library



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2



8

Presidential PETS

The president of the United States lives in the White House, but they don't live there alone! They bring their families with them—and many of those families include pets. Here are some furry friends who have lived at the White House over the years.



3



7



6



5



4

Now that I've earned this badge,
I can give service by:

Teaching my family or friends the three rules for who is
allowed to be president of the United States

I'm inspired to:

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