

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, “Government for the People,” we’ll be exploring why people participate in government. We’ll look back at the history of voting rights and learn that when our country was first founded, only white men who owned property were allowed to vote. We’ll discuss how voting rights were extended to African Americans and women. And we’ll also read about how meetings are conducted in an orderly way, following *Robert’s Rules of Order*, which were named after Henry Robert. We’ll also learn how the Haudenosaunee League of Nations was a model for the U.S. government.

“Government for the People” is an interesting unit that I expect will stimulate some lively discussions that will hopefully be continued at home. I look forward to working together as partners this year. Should you have any questions about our reading program or about your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Government for the People

In this unit, we read about voting rights and government, and think in depth about the question “Why do people participate in government?” Here are some activities designed to continue the conversation about government and to build on the skills and concepts your child has learned in school. Hopefully you’ll even have some fun, too, as you work together!

Topic Connection

Take Your Child to Vote

It’s likely that this unit will not necessarily coincide with Election Day, but even so you can still take your child to your local polling place. Show your child where and how you vote. And, if you’re a citizen and not yet registered to vote, take your child along when you do register.

Vocabulary Connection

Find That Word!

In school, students are learning new words related to our government and voting rights. Some of these words include **citizens, candidate, poll, ballot, campaign, register, precious, victory, and volunteers.**

You can support students’ word knowledge by using these words in meaningful contexts as you share everyday experiences, read newspapers and magazines, and view television or movies.

Comprehension Connection

What’s It All About?

One of the important reading skills we’ll be working on this year is identifying the main idea and important facts or details. This skill is especially important when reading the kinds of informational texts found in this unit. To review this skill, watch a news program or read an article with your child. Then talk about the main idea or what the selection is all about.

Word Study Connections

String it Along!

In our phonics and word study instruction, students are reading words controlled by *r*. In these words, the *r* gives the vowel a different sound. Sometimes we even refer to the “bossy *r*” because it directs the sound of the vowel. To practice this skill with your child, start with one of the words below. Ask your child to change one letter to make a new word. See how many new words you can make with the “ar” sound.

are barn car far farm jar
dark mark lark shark star scar