

GRADE 5 LEARNING PACK

Government & Civic Decision-Making Basics

Understand that public decisions involve institutions, laws, budgets, evidence and citizen participation without promoting a political viewpoint.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Understand that public decisions involve institutions, laws, budgets, evidence and citizen participation without promoting a political viewpoint.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 Different public bodies have different responsibilities.

2 Public money is limited, so budgeting involves choices and trade-offs.

3 Citizens can participate through lawful, age-appropriate civic channels and community action.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

Build a clear model or organiser that shows: Different public bodies have different responsibilities.

Use supplied evidence to test this idea: Public money is limited, so budgeting involves choices and trade-offs.

Compare two cases and explain where this principle matters: Citizens can participate through lawful, age-appropriate civic channels and community action.

Find one weak claim or assumption and revise it so it matches the evidence.

Write a short conclusion that states evidence, limitation and next question.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

Use an official local-government page with an adult to identify one public service responsibility.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Run a fictional town-budget exercise with competing needs and a written justification.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. Does one public body control every service?

2. Why do budgets require trade-offs?

3. What makes civic discussion stronger?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Government & Civic Decision-Making Basics”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

No.

2. Suggested response

Resources are limited.

3. Suggested response

Evidence, respectful reasoning and understanding responsibilities.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:
