Flocabulary

What Is a Government?

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b′   Notes

A community is a group of people who live, work, or do activities together. The classroom that you learn in is a community. The library in your neighborhood is a community. The local park you hang out in is a community.

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Communities need leaders to make decisions and help keep people safe. For example, at schools, we have teachers and principals. At the library, we have librarians. And at the local park, we have park rangers.

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In a city, state, or country, the government works similarly to make sure that everyone can live together safely. A government is a group of people that makes decisions, sets rules and laws, and protects people\xe2\x80\x99s rights.

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2. b′

The United States government is made up of leaders. We have the president, governors, and mayors. We also have people who make the laws and people who make sure the laws are fair and being followed.

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Laws help keep everyone safe. You might know some laws, like making sure to stop at a red light or not taking something that isn\xe2\x80\x99t yours.

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Laws also protect people\xe2\x80\x99s rights. Rights are freedoms that every person has. For example, we have the right to learn, the right to be safe, and the right to be treated fairly.

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3. b′

Governments are responsible for providing citizens with services. Services are things that are helpful to communities. For example, the government provides schools, libraries, hospitals, and postal services. Governments are also responsible for building parks, roads, bridges, and highways. They provide emergency services, too, like firefighters, medical teams, and police officers. Public transportation, like buses and trains, are also government services.

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These services are important. They make sure that citizens have what they need.

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