

LAWS AND RULES

Written by Marilyn Baker





Laws and Rules

Author: Marilyn Baker

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4325 N. Golden State Blvd. #102

Fresno, Ca 93722

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STRUCTURED GUIDED READING

BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

rule



law



BUILDING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

court



VOCABULARY



state

Some rules are for everyone in a state or a country.



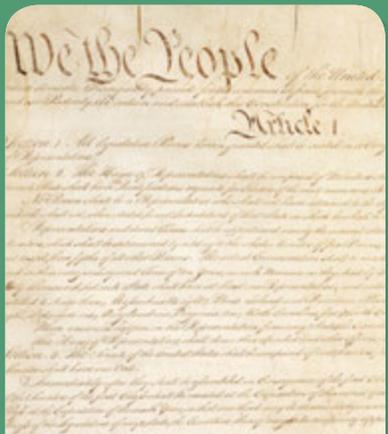
fair

When everyone plays a game by the rules, we know the game is fair.



traffic

Rules and laws also help keep us safe. One example is traffic laws.



Constitution

Our country is based on a set of laws called the Constitution.

VOCABULARY



judge

Citizens also elect the president and the governors of states. In some states, citizens also vote for judges.



jail

But a person who breaks a criminal law may have to go to jail.



jury

But sometimes, the decision is made by a jury.

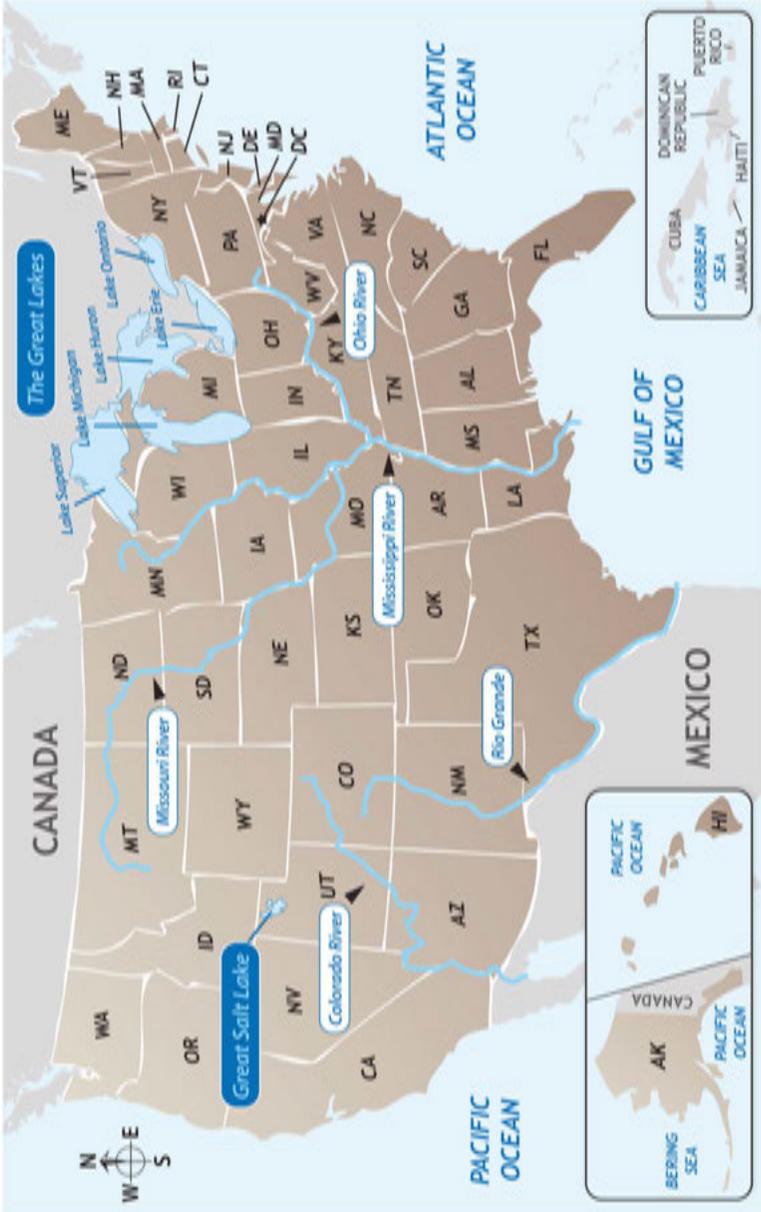


lawyer

Most people have a lawyer talk for them.

MAPS AND STUFF

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MAP





A game of Monopoly®

Introduction

- 1 Rules tell us things we can and cannot do. We learn rules from our parents first. As we get older, we learn more rules. Games have rules. There are rules at school.
- 2 Some rules are for everyone in a state or a country. These rules are called laws. Laws are made by **governments**. State governments make laws for people in that state. Laws that are for everyone in our country are made by people in Washington, D.C. We pick these people to make our laws.



Why Do We Have Rules and Laws?

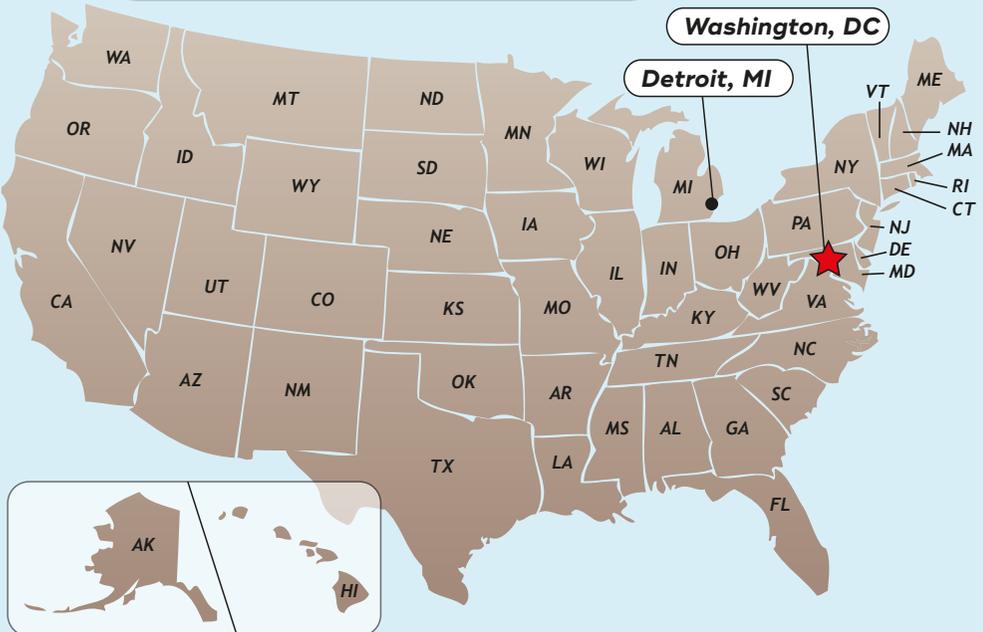
- 3 Rules and laws are very important. People need rules and laws when they live, work or play together. Rules help us to get along with each other. When everyone plays a game by the rules, we know the game is fair.
- 4 Rules and laws also help keep us safe. One example is traffic laws. These laws make driving safer. Speed **limits** are one kind of traffic law. There are also laws against running red lights.
- 5 Imagine what would happen without rules and laws. It is hard to play a game with people if they do not know the rules. What would happen if there were no traffic laws?

Our Laws

- 6 Our country is based on a set of laws called the Constitution. The United States Constitution explains how the government works. It tells how people are **elected**. Changes can be made to the Constitution.
- 7 States also have a set of laws, or a constitution. Each state's constitution explains how that state's government works. It tells how people are elected in each state.

Fun Fact

In Detroit, Michigan, it is against the law to tie a crocodile to a fire hydrant.





The U.S. Capitol is where the U.S. Congress meets to make laws.

Photo: Architect of the Capitol

People Who Make the Laws

- 8 People who are elected in Washington, D.C., make laws for the whole country. A state can only make laws for that state.
- 9 Think about the rules at your school. Your principal makes rules for the whole school. The principal is like the people in Washington, D.C. Your teacher makes rules for your classroom, but not the whole school. The teacher is like one of the states.
- 10 The principal and the teacher both have rules. Students must follow both sets of rules.

Citizens and the Law

- 11 Citizens are the people who live in a state or country. They have an important role in making laws. They elect the people who make the laws. Citizens also elect the leader of the country and the leader of their state. Sometimes, citizens vote for judges, too.

Voter booths at a polling station



Getting pulled over for speeding.



Enforcing the Law

- 12 After a law is passed, it must be enforced. Enforcing a law means making sure that it is followed. Police officers enforce the law. They may pull over speeding drivers. They also arrest people who commit **crimes**.

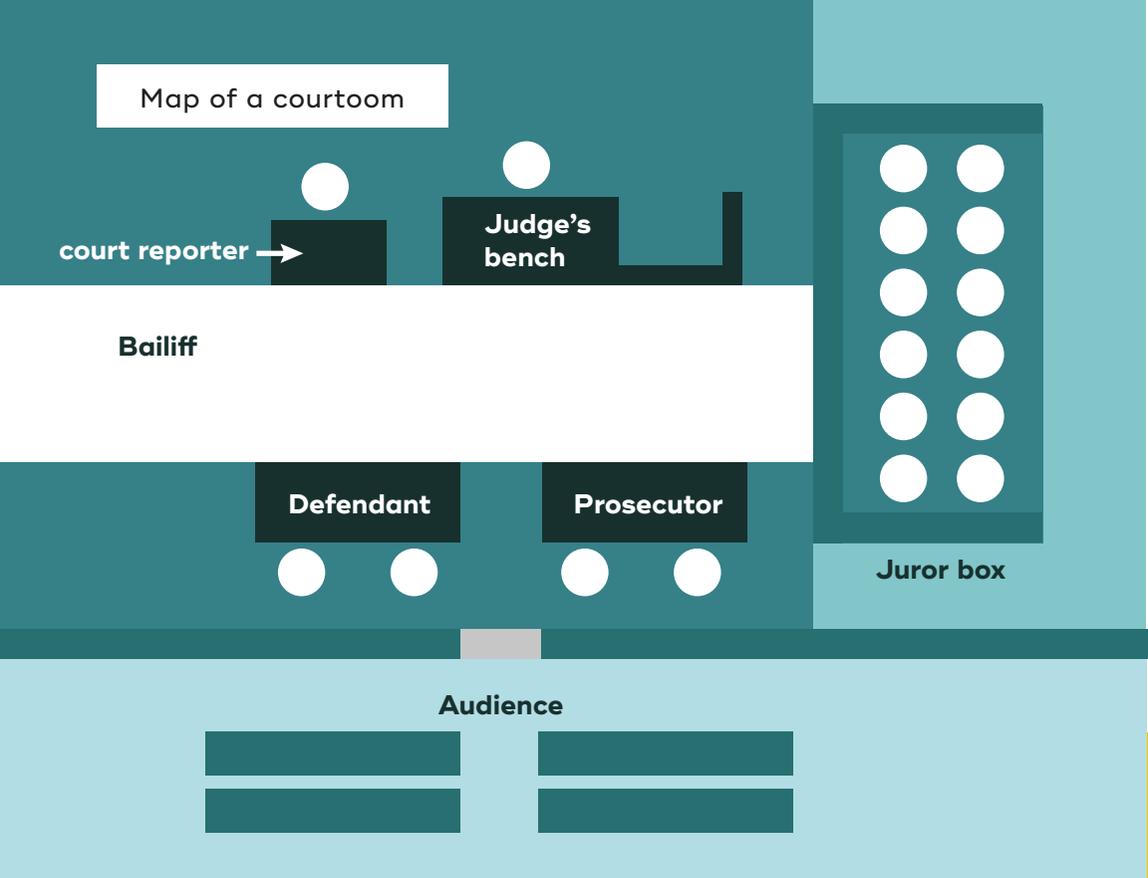
- 13 You can get in trouble when you break a rule or law. When you break a rule at home, you may be punished. If you break a rule in a basketball game, the other team may get to make a free throw. If your dad drives faster than the speed limit, he may get a ticket. But a person who commits a crime may have to go to jail.

The Jury

- 14 When a person is accused of breaking a law, there may be a court case. A judge often decides if a law has been broken. But sometimes, a jury has to decide. A jury is a group of citizens picked by the court. The jury hears both sides of the case. Then, the jury decides which side is right.
- 15 Sometimes, the jury decides if a person is either **guilty** or not guilty of a crime. If the government cannot prove that the person is guilty, then the jury tells the judge that the person is not guilty.

A lawyer addresses a jury.





In the Courtroom

- 16 People who are arrested go to court. In court, people have the chance to tell their side of the story. Most people have a lawyer speak for them. If there is a jury, the jury listens to lawyers for both sides. When the lawyers finish talking, the jury decides. The judge is in charge of the **courtroom**. If there is no jury, then the judge decides the case.

Fun Fact

The place in the courtroom where the judge sits is called the “bench.” It is usually a tall chair behind a big desk or table.

Conclusion

- 17 In our country, we have rights and freedoms. Rights are things that we deserve to have. Freedoms are things that we are allowed to have. These rights and freedoms are in the Constitution. People who are accused of a crime have rights. They have a right to have a lawyer. They have a right to be told what they are accused of doing. They have a right to hear the case against them. Not all countries give these rights to their citizens. But our country does.

Some Rights and Freedoms in the Bill of Rights

Amendment

1st

5th

6th

Right or Freedom

The freedom of speech,
the freedom of religion

The right to fair
treatment in court

The right to a lawyer if
you are accused of a crime

GLOSSARY

courtroom — the place where a judge listens to cases

crime — something that is against the law

elect – to put someone in charge by voting

government — a group in charge of a state or country

guilty — responsible for doing something bad or wrong

limit – the most you are allowed to do or have

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Photos: pages 4, 7, 9-10, 14-15 (istockphoto.com), pages 4-7 (pixabay.com),

page 6 (unsplash.com)

HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS

Group 40

#976-1000

976

total

989

tools

977

deal

990

conditions

978

determine

991

cows

979

evening

992

track

980

nor

993

arrived

981

rope

994

located

982

cotton

995

sir

983

apple

996

seat

984

details

997

division

985

entire

998

effect

986

corn

999

underline

987

substances

1000

view

988

smell



NO
TURN
ON
RED
6AM-9AM
MON-FRI



Park PL 4100
←

SPEED
CHECKED
BY
RADAR

NO
SKATEBOARDING
OR
ROLLERBLADING

SPEED
LIMIT
25

NO
PARKING
ON
BRIDGE

UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES
NOT DISPLAYING
DISTINGUISHING PLACARDS
OR LICENSE PLATES ISSUED
FOR DISABLED PERSONS
WILL BE TOWED AWAY
AT OWNER'S EXPENSE.
TOWED VEHICLES
MAY BE RECLAIMED AT
OR BY TELEPHONING

WRONG
WAY

ONE WAY →

STREET
SWEEPING
3rd
MONDAY
EVERY MONTH
7AM - 10AM



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