MY CITY

MY HOME

EXPLORE ENGAGE CONNECT
**What is a City?**

A city is a place where you live, work, go to school, and play. A city is a place where you carry on your day-to-day life. Cities are communities that may be made up of several neighborhoods. In Kansas, cities are established through a process of “incorporation.” This process establishes boundaries for the city. Cities vary in size, but each one is a true example of democracy in action at the level closest to residents of the city.

**Facts on Kansas Cities**

- There are 625 incorporated cities in Kansas. The capitol city of Kansas is Topeka.
- The first city established in Kansas is Leavenworth. It was founded in 1854, seven years before Kansas became a state.
- The smallest incorporated city in Kansas is Waldron, population 10.
- The largest incorporated city in Kansas is Wichita, population 389,255.

Kansas law authorizes four basic forms of government for cities. Cities may change these basic forms of city government by using their home rule powers. Home rule power means that a city can make decisions locally which includes enacting ordinances, codes, plans and resolutions.

The four forms of city government allowed in Kansas are:

1) Mayor-Council
2) Commission
3) Commission/Council-Manager
4) Unified Government

A city government provides services to its residents and sets up rules and regulations, called ordinances, that allow us to have a beautiful, safe, and healthy place to live. It is very important for residents to participate in the activities of their local, city government. Policies and major decisions of the city are made by city officials with the input of city residents. It is also important for citizens to know how their government works and get involved because these decisions impact the lives of all the residents.

**The name of my city’s Mayor is:**

**My city has this form of local government:**
WHERE IN KANSAS IS YOUR CITY?
MY CITY’S NAME IS

________________________

MY COUNTY’S NAME IS

________________________

THE POPULATION OF MY CITY IS

________________________

DRAW A MAP OF YOUR CITY:
Include stopping points for your city hall, your police department, your house, your local food bank, fire department, hospital, railroad, and your landfill.
Laws are rules that everyone in a community must follow, including adults. Cities establish laws to make our communities better places to live, work, and play.

Can you think of some laws in your city?

Crack the code below to discover some common laws in your community.

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Clue: What is an example of a Traffic Law?

| 6 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 2 | 13 | 4 | 6 |

Clue: What is an example of a Property Law?

| 10 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 14 |

Clue: What is an example of a Personal Liberty Law?

| 10 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 11 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 6 |

Check out the bonus challenge questions on page 10!
PEOPLE WHO WORK FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAVE AWESOME AND IMPORTANT JOBS.

Can you find all the local government workers and departments below?

T C P N J H N R O L G S E B C
S K M D B F E V I B M S S J O
Y O R Y Y T L B V K E R B R N
L F V E A C R M U S E U M S S
A V E W L A N H B N C V F U T
N N Z B R C R E O U Q S Y S R
A V F I R E F I G H T E R S U
I U A J T I S U L R O Y A M C
N N K U B S S B U U E S G P T
Y I G N I L C Y C E R M B O I
L I H M O H A X G L I U E L O
U Y M O R S Z W A X D B E I N
R O H M B A P L Y G F D X C G
C C T P A R K S E E R X M E S
S F G Z X T Q T D W R T A P A

ANALYST
BUDGET
CLERK
COMMISSIONERS
CONSTRUCTION
EMERGENCY

FIREFIGHTERS
LAWYER
LIBRARIAN
MAYOR
MUSEUMS
PARKS

POLICE
RECYCLING
SCHOOLS
TRASH
WATER

Check out the bonus challenge questions on page 10!
United States Crossword
government

Across
1. This person leads a town.
3. A part of the government that makes laws.
5. When people come together to vote.

Down
2. This person leads a state.
4. This person leads a country.
6. Members of a country.

Word Bank

governor citizens election president congress mayor

Check out the bonus challenge questions on page 10!
BEING A GOOD CITIZEN
There are many ways to be a good citizen.

When you have a picnic at the park, you clean up after yourself.
If you see a crime being committed, you call the police.
You respect your neighbors by being polite and kind to them.
You vote in elections.

Do you do any of the things above? Which ones?
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

What do you think it means to be a good citizen?
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

What else can you do to be a good citizen?
______________________________
______________________________
______________________________

On the next page, draw a picture of yourself being a good citizen!
BONUS CHALLENGE
ANSWER THE BONUS CHALLENGE QUESTIONS BELOW!

PAGE 5:
THIS IS WHAT LAWS MEAN TO ME AND HOW I UNDERSTAND THEM:
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

PAGE 6:
THE JOB/DEPARTMENT THAT INTERESTS ME IS:
________________________________________________________________________

THE WEBSITE FOR THIS JOB/DEPARTMENT IS:
________________________________________________________________________

THE COOLEST THING THIS JOB/DEPARTMENT DOES ON A DAILY BASIS IS:
________________________________________________________________________
Clue: What is an example of a Traffic Law?

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Clue: What is an example of a Personal Liberty Law?

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More Fun & Games

Dear Teachers, Parents and Students of all ages,

Thank you for completing this activity book and we hope you had fun learning about cities!

This activity book is only one part of the League’s Youth Civic Education Program.

We invite you to explore all the League has to offer on civic education!

For more Resources, Lesson Plans, and Online games visit:

www.lkm.org/youtheducation

Along with this activity book, The League offers:

- A civic learning path (Featured at right)
- Three lesson plans for third, seventh and high school aged students including discussion points and online resources.
- A Civic Resource Guide with online resources and games
- A writing contest for seventh grade students with six regional winners chosen
- A “Local Government in Kansas” Primer

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Find More Educational Materials at www.lkm.org/youtheducation