

Activities

Pennsylvania



A FUN WAY TO LEARN ABOUT LAW-MAKING IN PENNSYLVANIA



PENNSYLVANIA

“Hi kids! You know me, don’t you? I’m Benjamin Franklin. But you can just call me Ben. The little fellow with me is my dog Lightning. Now, I don’t mean to brag but, after all, I am one of the most famous citizens in Pennsylvania history.

Hey, I hope you’re ready for some fun, because this book is packed with all kinds of neat stuff. Just look for me on every page and I’ll show you what to do!”

By the way, the answers are on the back cover if you’re stumped.

“Did you know that Pennsylvania is 12 letters long? I bet you can make zillions of words out of those letters. Big words like ‘plains’ and little words like ‘lap’. I wrote down some clues to get you started. See if you can use the letters in Pennsylvania to fill in the rest of the blanks.”



1. This is what you sign your name with

2. A quick snooze

3. A slow-moving sea creature with a shell

4. You fry eggs in this

5. You pound this with a hammer

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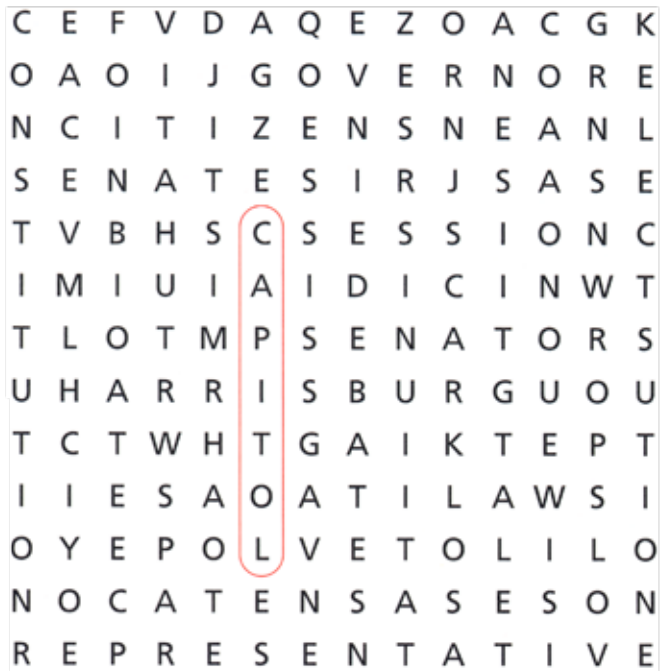
20.

21.

22.



Here's another job for Ben, Lightning and Company! Circle all the words you can find that are colored orange in the story. A Ben and Lightning Reminder: Look for words spelled up and down, across the page and diagonally."



C A P I T O L W O R D S E A R C H

Angela and Mike like to collect words. Last month, they took a tour of the state Capitol Building and brought home lots of new ones for their collection.

The kids spent most of the day on the side of the **Capitol** Building called the **House** of Representatives. They had plenty of questions for their tour guide. "What exactly does a **Representative** do?" Angela wanted to know.

"All over Pennsylvania, people like your parents **elect** representatives from their own part of the state to come here and make **laws** for all the **citizens** of Pennsylvania," the tour guide explained.

"Do our representatives make all the laws?" Mike wanted to know. "Nope," said the guide. "Our

Constitution makes sure that many people share that job." The kids learned that **Senators**, who work in the **Senate** on the opposite side of the Capitol, also propose laws. Together, the House and the Senate are called the General Assembly. Some call it Pennsylvania's "lawmaking department."

The House of Representatives was in **session** the day of their visit, so Mike and Angela could watch. They saw lawmakers discuss **bills**, which are ideas for new laws. They found out that these discussions are called **debates**. That afternoon, the representatives debated a bill that said cafeterias in Pennsylvania should serve more vegetables. Yuk!

The tour guide told the kids that the House and the Senate have to vote "yes" on the bill before it can be made into a law. After that, the **Governor** has to vote "yes" for a bill to become a law. If the Governor says "no" to a bill, it is called a **veto**. Both Mike and Angela left **Harrisburg** hoping the Governor would veto the vegetable bill!

A-M-A-ZING LAWS

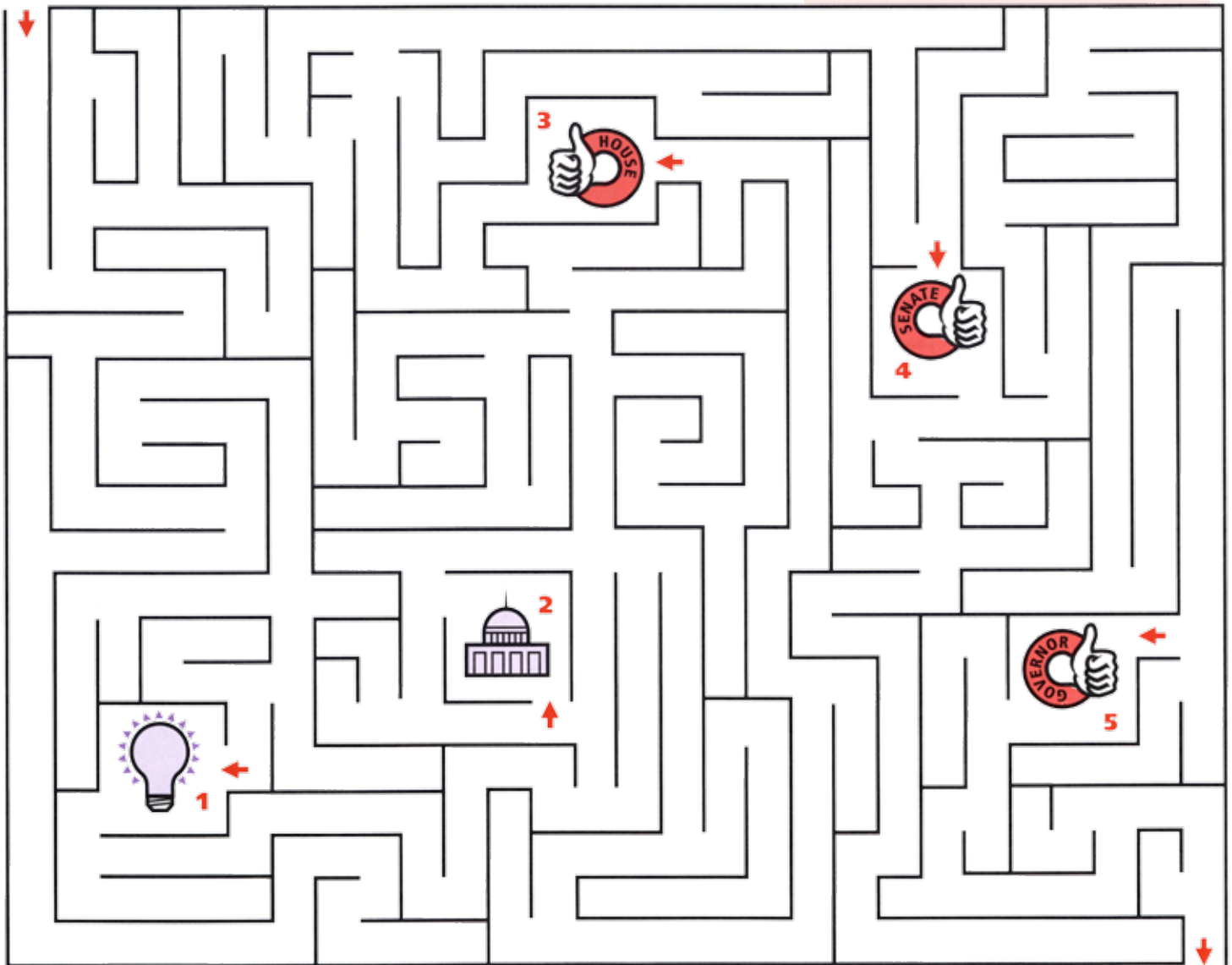


“Every time you ride in a car, you have to buckle your seatbelt. Right? And your baby brother or sister has to ride in a car seat. Why? Because it’s easy. It’s safe. And it’s the law in Pennsylvania! Where do laws like these come from? Let’s hit the trail together and find out. A Ben and Lightning Reminder: Follow the maze clues and the arrows to reach the finish line and make a law!”

MAZE CLUES

- 1 **Ideas** for new laws can come from Pennsylvania citizens like you.
- 2 Lawmakers discuss the ideas in the Pennsylvania **Capitol** in Harrisburg.
- 3 To make a new law, most of the representatives in the **House** of Representatives must vote “yes” on the idea.
- 4 To make a new law, most of the senators in the **Senate** must vote “yes” on the idea.
- 5 To make a new law, the **Governor** must also vote “yes” on the idea.
- 6 The idea becomes a **law**.

Start



6 
Finish

Law Talk

“Hey kids—see this list of words? Lawmakers in Harrisburg use them all the time. But so can we! In fact, we can use “law-talk” to help the Martin kids lay down the law in their house! Read the definitions. Then write each word into the story where you think it belongs. A Ben and Lightning Reminder: Use each word only one time.”



DEFINITIONS

- Amend**
Change in order to improve.
- Bills**
Ideas for new laws.
- Committee**
Groups which are asked to do a special job. For example, in the House of Representatives, committees study suggestions for new laws.
- Compromise**
Settle differences of opinion by give and take.
- Debate**
Two or more people discuss all sides of an issue.
- Democratic**
Fair to all the people in a group.
- Laws**
Rules that all people of a society must obey.
- Legislators**
People who make laws.
- Lobbied**
Tried to convince someone to act in a certain way.
- Member**
A person who belongs to a larger group. For example, there are 203 “members” in the House of Representatives.
- Representatives**
People who are elected to speak for others.
- Vote**
To signal a choice.

One day 10-year-old Sara Martin had a great idea. “The kids are gonna make new **1.** Laws for this family,” she told her brother Jim.

“Yes!” At age eight, Jim thought his big sister had the world’s best ideas. “But Annie’s only three,” he pointed out. “She can’t really speak for herself.

“That’s OK,” said Sara. “We’ll ask her what she wants. Then, we’ll be her **2.** _____ when we tell our ideas to Mom and Dad.”

The Martin kids held a meeting in the backyard. “Make a law that we eat oatmeal cookies every night,” squealed Annie. “Yeah, and we stay up late and get new TVs!” added Ben.

The kids’ heads were spinning with **3.** _____ that would fix things just right. “Hold on a minute,” warned Sara. “I’m not crazy about oatmeal cookies.” Suddenly, the kids realized that since every **4.** _____ of the family would have to obey the new laws, they must get everyone’s opinion about them. To gather opinions, they formed two **5.** _____.

A week later, they met again. “We really **6.** _____ hard for our new laws,” said Jim gloomily. “But Dad says it’s not **7.** _____ to force everybody to do stuff only some of us want.”

“Don’t give up yet,” Sara cautioned. We must **8.** _____ a little.” Jim brightened. “Right!” We can **9.** _____ these ideas so they’re fair to everybody.”

And that’s what they did. This time, they suggested oatmeal cookies just once a week and only for dessert. Also, bedtime at ten, and instead of new TVs, Dad would fix the jiggly lines on the one they have.

Next week the whole family met to discuss the ideas for new laws. The **10.** _____ went back and forth. Finally, they were ready to take a **11.** _____. The Cookie Bill and the TV Repair Bill passed easily. But the family couldn’t agree on the Bedtime Bill, and it was defeated. That was OK. Because the next weekend, the young **12.** _____ watched TV with a full cookie jar and no jiggly lines to mess up their favorite show!

LAW SQUAD

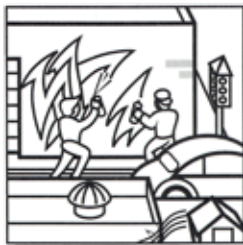
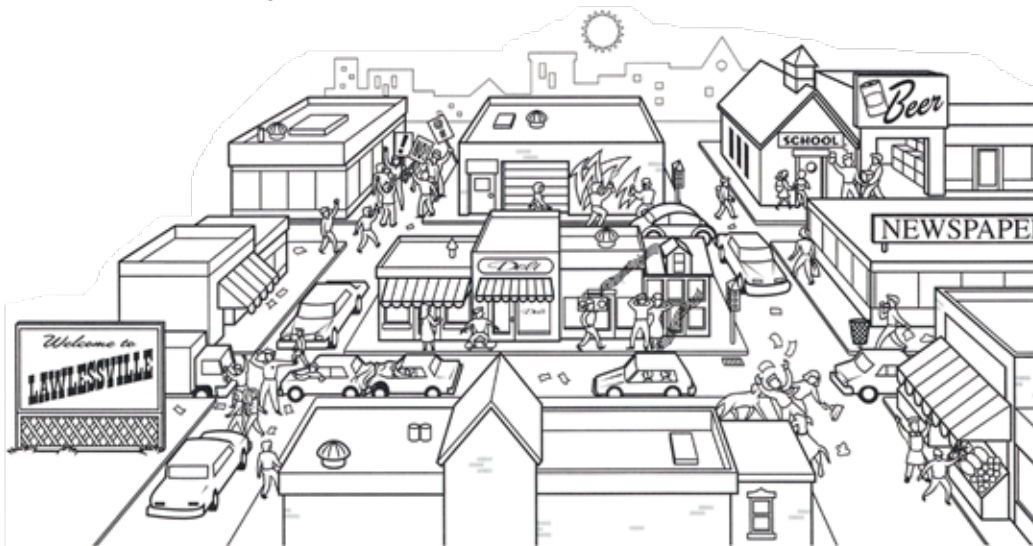


“If there were no laws, things would be a mess in our cities and towns—just like in this picture. But you and I can join the Law Squad and clean up the mess in Lawlessville. All we need are a few good laws.

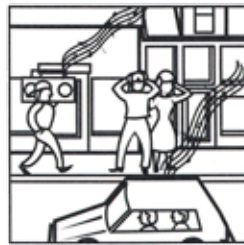
“Lightning and I have made close-ups of the big picture for you to study. And here’s a list of the kinds of laws that are missing in Lawlessville. Now—before Lawlessville gets any worse—write the kind of law under each picture that would fix the problem it shows. A Ben and Lightning Reminder: Use each law only one time.”

LAWLESSVILLE'S MISSING LAWS

- **A Leash Law:** Keep pets on a leash in public places.
- **A Litter Law:** Place trash in proper containers.
- **A Zoning Law:** Businesses serving “adults only” must not be placed near school buildings.
- **A Public Nuisance Law:** Do not disturb the peace of others in public.
- **A Traffic Law:** Drivers and pedestrians must obey street lights and traffic signs.
- **A Graffiti Law:** Do not damage or deface the property of others.
- **An Assembly Law:** Do not block public entrances while demonstrating.
- **A Shoplifting Law:** Customers must pay for any merchandise they take from a store.



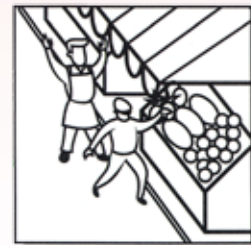
1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

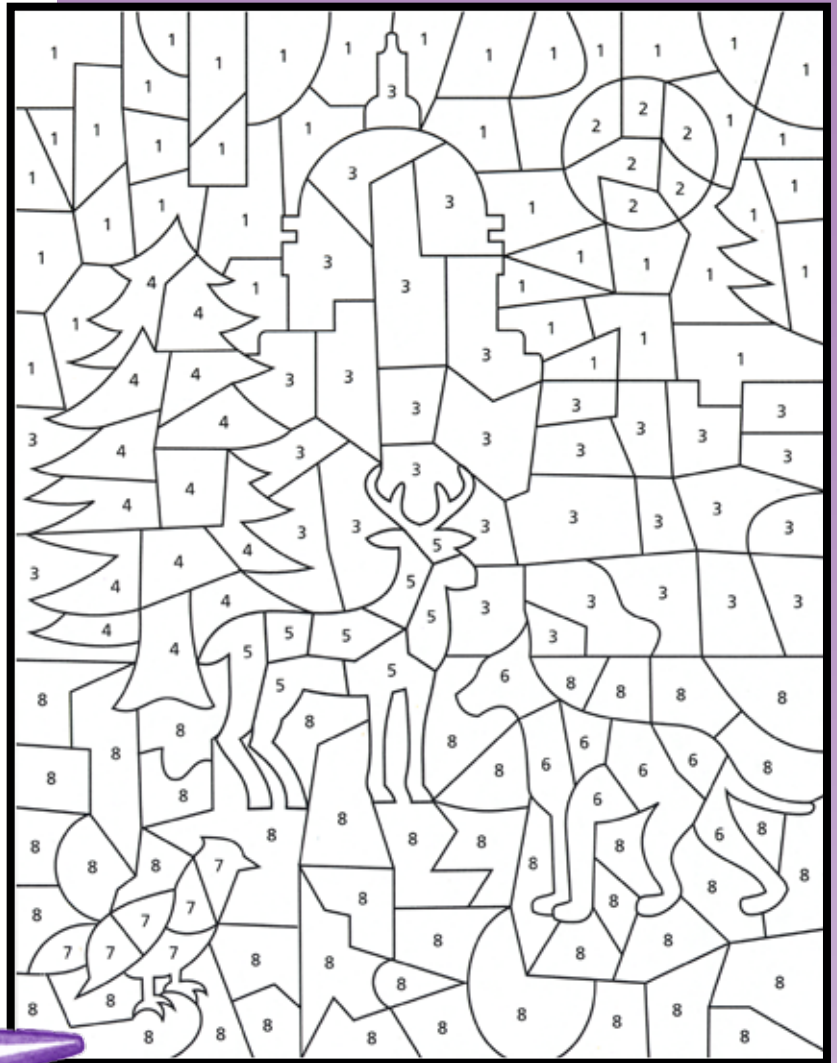
PENNSYLVANIA BY THE NUMBERS

“You’re gonna love this one! I know I do! Everything in this picture is a special symbol of Pennsylvania. But we need an artist to brighten things up a little. So here’s what you do: Grab your crayons, follow the Color Key and bring this picture to life. The numbers on Lightning’s coat are six, and that means you color him brown. Now, follow the Color Key to make everything else as good-looking as Lightning is!”



Color Key

- 1 Light Blue = Sky
- 2 Orange = Sun
- 3 Yellow = The Capitol Building
- 4 Dark Green = Hemlock Tree (State Tree)
- 5 Tan = White-Tailed Deer (State Animal)
- 6 Brown = Great Dane (State Dog)
- 7 Red = Ruffed Grouse (State Bird)
- 8 Light Green = Grass



JUNIOR LAWMAKER:

Wow! You guys are already at the end of this book! Nice work. Now you know something about making law. But did you know that anyone can suggest a law for Pennsylvania—even kids?! Here’s what to do.

- Write your good idea for a new law on a piece of paper.
- Put it in an envelope and address it to: The Office of the Chief Clerk at the address listed on the back cover.
- Be sure to put your return address on the envelope. Include your name and full address.
- Add a stamp and drop the letter in the mailbox.
- Lightning and I will make sure you get a Junior Lawmaker Award.

So think hard. Who knows, maybe your idea will become the next new law in Pennsylvania!



