



## Citizenship Safari

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### Introduction

In these celebrations you learned about men and women who worked hard to make and keep America free. Each person you studied, from George Washington to Harriet Tubman, practiced citizenship. They loved their country and worked to make it better. You can too.

In this safari, you learn about citizenship in your city, state and national government. You learn ways you can make the places where you live and work better.

### The Task

Locate people and places important to your city, state, and national government.

### The Goal

Collect points as you work through the Citizenship Safari. Watch for opportunities for bonus points. One hundred points earns you the Celebrate Freedom Citizenship Award.

### The Safari

You may work alone or in teams. Collect all the information listed below. Record what you find in a report, a poster, a presentation, or a web page.

## My City

(25 points available)

Go to the list of Texas cities at <http://www.state.tx.us/Communities/cities.html>. Find the web site for your city. (If your city does not have a web site, find the address of your city hall. Phone, visit or write your mayor.) Find the following information:

1. Who is the mayor of your city?

Name the mayor and get 2 points.

Write or e-mail the mayor and get 2 more points.

Get a written answer from the mayor and get 2 bonus points.

2. Collect information about your fire department.

Name the Fire Chief and get 2 points.

Find the non-emergency number for your fire department and get 2 more points.

3. Locate information about your police.

Find out if your police force has a Community Oriented Policing program and earn 2 points.

Name the contact person for the Community Oriented Policing program in your city and earn another 2 points.

4. Learn about your city parks and recreation department.

Does your city have a Parks Department? Find out how to contact it and get 2 points.

Find the nearest park (to your school) and earn 2 points.

List the equipment at the park and earn 2 points.

What new equipment would you like to see in your park? Send a message -- a letter, an e-mail or a petition signed by a group of people requesting the new equipment. This earns you 5 points because now you are an involved citizen working to make your community better.

## My State

(25 points available)

Go to the State of Texas web site at <http://www.state.tx.us>. Select the link for Texas Information. When that new page opens, scroll down and select the link for Basic Facts for Youth. (If you get lost, go to <http://www.ipl.org/youth/stateknow/tx1.html>.)

### 1. Learn our nickname.

Find the nickname and earn 2 points.

Do some research on your own to discover the origin of the nickname and earn 2 points.

### 2. Find your state Representative.

Go to the House web site at <http://www.house.state.tx.us>. Select the link to House Membership. (If you get lost, go to <http://www.house.state.tx.us/house/member.htm>.) Then select the link to Zip Code (If you get lost, go to <http://www.house.state.tx.us/house/member.htm>.) Enter your Zip Code and click the Search button. Earn 2 points when you find your Representative.

Write or e-mail your representative. Tell him or her that you are celebrating Freedom Week in Texas. Ask him or her how Freedom Week got started and earn 2 points.

Earn 2 more points if you get an answer.

### 3. Find your state Senator.

Go to the Senate web site at <http://www.senate.state.tx.us>. Select the Senator tab. A fly-out menu will show up. Select the Your Incumbent tab. (If you get lost, go to <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/Senate/Members.htm#FYI>.) Enter the information and earn 2 points when you find your Senator.

Explain what "Incumbent " means and earn 2 more points.

Write or e-mail your Senator. Ask him or her how state Senators are elected and how long a Senator serves. Earn 2 points for sending the message.

Earn 2 more points if you get an answer.

### 4. Learn about Governor Rick Perry.

Go to the Governor's web site at <http://www.governor.state.tx.us>.

While there, click on the Governor link at the top of the page. (If you get lost, go to [http://www.governor.state.tx.us/gov\\_information/bio/gov\\_bio.htm](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/gov_information/bio/gov_bio.htm).) Find out how many Texas governors have served before Governor Perry and earn 2 points.

Governor Perry was not elected Governor. You earn 5 bonus points if you can tell which office Governor Perry was elected to and how he became our governor.

## My Nation

(50 points available)

NOTE: All information for this part of the safari is located at Ben's Guide to US Government at <http://bensguide.gpo.gov>. Select the link for Grades 3 - 5.

1. Earn 10 points by explaining how laws are made. Create a flow chart to show how it happens.
2. Check out the election process. Earn 10 points when you identify the three requirements for a presidential candidate.
3. Read the information on the Citizenship pages. Ten points are yours if you can explain what the "melting pot" means in America.
4. Grab an easy 10 points if you can tell about our nation's capital. Be sure to talk about all three locations of the capital.
5. Earn your 10 highest points by explaining what you learned this week and what you think is the best thing about America.