

Law and Order

Purpose

Students will explain the consequences of violating laws and identify the duties of local officials who enforce laws through government.

Materials

For the teacher: Police Officers (In My Neighborhood) by Paulette Bourgeois, chalk, chalkboard

For each student: copy of Black Line Master (BLM) Making Laws and Taking Consequences, pencil

Activity

A. Story Time

1. Tell students that you are going to read them a story about police officers. Have students listen for the different duties that police officers have and how they enforce the law.
2. Read *Police Officers (In My Neighborhood)* aloud to students.
3. Discuss the story. Ask students:
 - “What kinds of problems do police have to solve?”
 - “What are some of the different kinds of law officers?”
 - “What duties do law officers have?”
 - “What happens to people who don’t obey the law?”

B. Duties of Law Officers

1. Write the word “laws” at the top of the chalkboard.
2. Write the word “duties” underneath “laws.”
3. Have students brainstorm several duties that law officers or police have.
4. List students’ responses on the chalkboard. Encourage students to suggest duties such as stopping speeders, catching people who have broken a law, helping people who have had car accidents, and teaching us about safety.
5. Ask students: “What does a law officer do to someone who doesn’t follow the laws? What happens to a person who is caught speeding? What happens to a person who steals things?” Help students understand that different crimes have different consequences.

(continued)

**connecting
across the
curriculum**



Physical Education

Have students play “Red Light, Green Light.” Allow students to make up new rules for other familiar games.

**EXTENDING
THE
ACTIVITY**



Invite a police officer to visit the class. Have students ask the officer how he/she became a police officer, what his/her duties are, and what the different consequences are for violating laws in the community.

**Standards Links
3.2.1, 3.2.3**

Activity (continued)

C. Legal Consequences

1. Write the word “consequences” on the chalkboard under the word “laws.”
2. Have students brainstorm different consequences and list the consequences on the chalkboard.
3. Tell students that they are going to have a chance to write their own laws and consequences for breaking these laws.
4. Hand out a copy of the BLM *Making Laws and Taking Consequences* to each student.
5. Instruct students to fill in the BLM by making up a new law for their classroom and community, list the reasons the law is needed, and describe the consequences of breaking the law.
6. Divide the class into small groups and have them share their laws and consequences with each other.
7. Have each group choose one law from their group and present it to the rest of the class. Tell them that they must have a reason the law is needed and the consequences for not abiding by the law.

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

As students are working on their BLMs, ask them questions like the following:

-  What are two duties that a police officer has?
 -  What happens to someone who breaks the law?
 -  Why do we need consequences for breaking laws?
 -  Why do police stop cars that are speeding?
-

Name: _____

MAKING LAWS AND TAKING CONSEQUENCES

Think of a new rule for your classroom or school. List the rule.
Write why the rule is needed. List consequences for breaking the rule.

New rule:

Why is this rule needed?

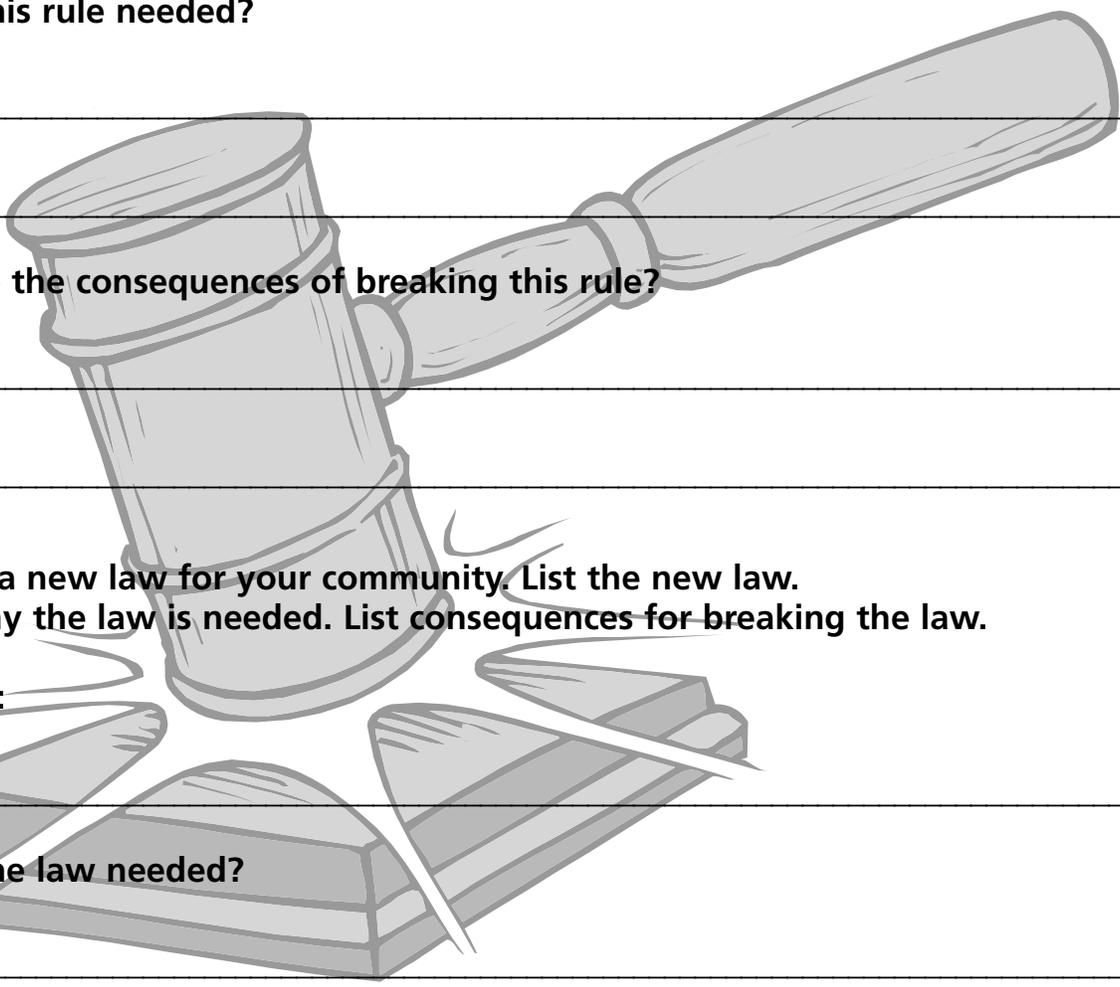
What are the consequences of breaking this rule?

Think of a new law for your community. List the new law.
Write why the law is needed. List consequences for breaking the law.

New law:

Why is the law needed?

What are the consequences of breaking the law?



MAKING LAWS AND TAKING CONSEQUENCES

Teacher Directions

Give each student a copy of the BLM *Making Laws and Taking Consequences*. Explain to students that they will need to create a new rule for their school. Have students write the new rule on the first line. Next, have students write an explanation for why it is needed and write the consequence for breaking the rule. Have students follow the same steps in writing a new law for the community.

Answer Key

Answers will vary.