

CHAPTER 6 SELF-CHECK

How Laws Work

Color in the circle beside the correct answer. More than one answer might correct.

1. Our system is based on English common law because _____.
 - a. the early settlers were ruled by England
 - b. English law was known to be somewhat fair
 - c. no other form of law was as well known in the world
 - d. different states wanted to have some laws in common

2. The Bill of Rights is _____.
 - a. all of the rights given to every United States citizen
 - b. all of the rights given to all people living in the U.S.
 - c. the rights listed anywhere in the Constitution
 - d. the rights listed in the first ten amendments to the Constitution

3. A law that is constitutional is _____.
 - a. a law that is written into the Bill of Rights
 - b. a law that has not changed since the Constitution was written
 - c. a law that cannot be challenged in court
 - d. a law that goes along with what is in the Constitution

4. The right to *habeas corpus* can be used in the case of _____.
 - a. Toni, who has been waiting for weeks for her trial to start
 - b. Frank, who is in jail for days but not charged with a crime
 - c. Maria, who is too poor to pay the bail
 - d. Brian, who thinks evidence against him was taken illegally

5. The need to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt _____.
 - a. helps the accused person
 - b. helps the prosecutor
 - c. helps speed up trials
 - d. helps reduce crime

6. The purpose of due process is _____.
 - a. to make sure that laws are enforced
 - b. to make sure that laws are constitutional
 - c. to protect anyone accused of a crime
 - d. to make sure that an accused person has a lawyer

7. Statutory laws are _____.
 - a. laws handed down from England
 - b. laws written down by lawmakers
 - c. laws based on judges' rulings
 - d. laws that are against the Constitution

CHAPTER 6 REALITY CHECK

How Laws Work

WRITING ACTIVITY

Read each item below.
Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. In many societies, the accused person is considered guilty unless evidence proves otherwise. Why do you think it is the reverse in this country? _____

2. Explain how the prosecution and the defense work against each other. _____

3. Do you think that the principle of an eye for an eye should apply to every crime or to all crimes except homicide? Why? _____

4. Why is the scales of justice a good symbol to represent fairness in our criminal justice system?

5. Why does justice have to be blind?

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ACTIVITY

Form a small group of 3-6 people. Each person in your group should contribute. Before you begin, decide what each person's job will be in the group. If time allows, present your group's work to the class.

Society often demands that a new law be written. One example is people demanding tougher laws against drunk drivers. Think of an important issue that needs attention in your school or community or a school rule that already exists but needs to be changed.

- Design an idea for a rule or law the group feels is needed.
- Decide what action you could actually take to get such a rule or law passed. You might have to do research, convince people to support it, or write to a lawmaker.
- Take the necessary steps to take to make your idea become a reality.
- Exchange idea plans with another group. Give them helpful suggestions, and also consider theirs.

Define:

1. Common: _____
2. Reasonable: _____
3. Citizen: _____
4. Doubt: _____
5. Evident: _____
6. Enforce: _____
7. Proactive: _____
8. Statute: _____
9. Challenge: _____
10. Settle: _____
11. Prosecute: _____
12. Lawyer: _____
13. Somewhat: _____
14. Edify: _____
15. Amend: _____
16. Bill: _____
17. United: _____
18. Anywhere: _____
19. Attorney: _____
20. Bailiff: _____

Name/Date: _____

News Article Summary

Who wrote the article: _____

Title of the Article: _____

When did the events in the article occur?

Where did the events occur?

List all that are named in the article with their titles if given:

What was the article about?

Why is this article important?

What did you learn from the article?