Why It Matters

As citizens, we are free to exercise our rights. In return we are expected to fulfill certain duties and responsibilities. By doing so, we help ensure that our government will be effective in serving our needs and protecting our rights. **How are volunteers in your community exercising their responsibilities?**
For government to be effective, citizens must fulfill their civic duties and responsibilities. As American citizens, we enjoy many rights under our system of government. Along with those rights, we also share many responsibilities. These responsibilities help protect our rights.

Section 2: Citizens and the Community

Citizen participation is essential to the foundation and preservation of the U.S. political system. Good citizenship does not depend on each of us doing only what we are required to do by law. The American ideal of citizenship has always stressed each citizen's responsibility to participate in his or her community.

Comparing Information Study Foldable

Make this Foldable to help you compare responsibilities of the citizen and the community.

- **Step 1**: Fold one sheet of paper in half from side to side.
- **Step 2**: Turn the paper and fold it into thirds.
- **Step 3**: Unfold and draw two overlapping ovals, and label them as shown.
- **Step 4**: Cut only the top layer along both fold lines.

Reading and Writing

As you read this chapter, list the responsibilities the citizen has to the community and those that the community has to the citizen under the appropriate tabs of your Foldable. Be sure to fill out the “Both” area, too.

Young volunteer in the Publicolors Paint Club spruces up her New York City school
Duties and Responsibilities

Real World Civics  Kirk Bauer is no stranger to a challenge. As a young soldier in Vietnam in 1969, Bauer lost his leg to a grenade blast. Today, after years of surgeries and rehabilitation, Bauer is the executive director of Disabled Sports USA, an organization dedicated to providing sports rehabilitation to persons with permanent disabilities. Because Bauer was introduced to skiing by other Vietnam veterans, he has focused his energy on providing rehabilitation opportunities for veterans injured in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Kirk Bauer competes at the Hartford Ski Spectacular in Breckenridge, Colorado.
Duties of Citizens

Main Idea The privilege of U.S. citizenship brings with it certain duties and responsibilities.

Civics & You Are you a good citizen? What are the duties and the responsibilities of citizenship? Read on to find out why American citizens have a responsibility to their communities, the environment, and the law.

What comes to mind when you hear the word “community”? Do you think of your neighborhood or perhaps your town? Actually, each of us belongs to many communities—our school or workplace; our church, synagogue, or mosque; our state; and our country. On the broadest level, we are also members of the global, or worldwide, community becoming more connected than ever before with people around the world.

We all play a part in making our communities safe and successful. All of us have certain responsibilities to fulfill. Responsibilities are things we should do; they are obligations that we fulfill voluntarily. As American citizens, we also have legal duties that we are required to perform. Duties are things that we are required to do.

National, state, and local governments require Americans to perform certain duties established by laws. If we fail to perform them, we are subject to legal penalties, such as fines or imprisonment.

Some countries require much from their citizens. In some countries, for example, citizens must serve in the armed forces for a period of time each year. The United States government asks much less of its citizens than many other countries. Nonetheless, the government does require its citizens to perform the following duties.

Student Web Activity Visit glencoe.com and complete the Chapter 5 Web Activity.

Duties As citizens of the United States, we all have certain duties, such as defending the nation.

Explaining Why is it important to fulfill our duties as citizens?

Obey Laws

This is a citizen’s most important duty. Our laws are designed for specific purposes—to help people get along, to prevent accidents, to see that resources are used fairly, and so on. If we do not obey the law, then communities cannot maintain order or protect our health, safety, and property.

Pay Taxes

Another duty of citizens is to pay taxes. Taxes provide most of the money government needs to keep functioning. Without taxes, the federal government could not pay its employees, maintain armed forces to defend the country, and help those in need. Your local community probably could not hire police or firefighters, and your state could not pave roads or maintain prisons.
The federal government and some states and cities collect income, or earnings, in the form of taxes—a percentage of what people earn. Most states and some cities collect taxes on the sale of goods and services. Your school district collects taxes on the residential and commercial property within the district.

**Defend the Nation**

Under the law, men aged 18 to 25 are required to register with the government in case the country needs to draft, or call up, men for military service. Since the end of the Vietnam War, there has been no draft, and America’s military has been made up of volunteers. The draft is typically used only in the event of war or extreme national emergency.

**Serve in Court**

The Constitution guarantees the right to a trial by jury. Every adult citizen must be prepared to serve on a jury. People can be excused from jury duty if they have a valid reason, but service is usually rewarding. People involved in court cases depend on their fellow citizens to reach a fair verdict. Another duty of citizens is to serve as witnesses at a trial if called to do so.

**Attend School**

All young people have access to free public schools and, in most states, are required to attend school until the age of 16. This benefits both you and the government because you need knowledge and skills to be a good citizen. In school you not only gain an understanding of history, government, and other important subjects, but you also learn to think through problems, to form opinions, and to express your views clearly.

*Explaining* Why must all citizens pay taxes?
Civic Responsibilities

Main Idea The voluntary responsibilities of U.S. citizens include participating in the political process and being informed.

Civics & You As a citizen, what do you think is your most important responsibility? Read to find out what voluntary actions are part of good citizenship.

Be Informed

Keep in mind that government decisions affect your life. The state legislature, for example, might pass a law changing the rate of sales tax you pay. Your school board might vote to start the school day earlier. Your town council might set aside funds for a new recreation center. You have a responsibility to know what the government is doing so that you can voice your opinions on matters about which you feel strongly.

Speak Up and Vote

Our government is based on the principle of “consent of the governed.” This means that people are the source of all governmental power; that is, government exists to serve you. If you expect public officials to act in your interests, you can make your concerns known by contacting your elected representatives, working for a particular cause, or, above all, by voting.

Voting is one of American citizens’ most important responsibilities. By electing leaders and voting on proposed measures, Americans give their consent to the government. As former President Franklin D. Roosevelt said,

“The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and Senators and Congressmen and Government officials but the voters of this country.”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Address at Marietta

In the United States today, all citizens of at least 18 years of age have the right to vote. Each Election Day, citizens have the chance to shape the future of our communities, states, and nation by voting. Thoughtful voters study the candidates and issues carefully before marking their ballots. They also regularly check on what their elected leaders are doing. If an official’s performance falls short, it is up to the voters to choose someone else in the next election. Voting responsibly ensures that leadership is changed in a peaceful and orderly manner.
Respect Others’ Rights

In order for you to enjoy your rights, you have a responsibility to respect the rights of others. For example, if you own a dog, you have an obligation to keep it from becoming a nuisance to your neighbors. In a democratic society like ours, with such a diverse population, it is especially important to respect the civil liberties of others. Although you may disagree with people or disapprove of their lifestyles, they have an equal right to their beliefs and practices. Respecting and accepting others, regardless of their beliefs, practices, or differences, is called tolerance. Treating others politely and respectfully is thus part of being a good citizen. Many of our laws encourage people to respect each other’s rights.

You also have a responsibility to respect public and private property. Some people might claim that “no one gets hurt” when they litter in a park or paint graffiti on a school wall, yet such public property belongs to us all, and we all pay if it is damaged.

Contribute to the Common Good

Responsible citizens show concern for others as well as for themselves. They are willing to give time, effort, and money to improve community life for all.

The members of a community must be actively concerned with promoting the health and welfare of every one of its members so that each member can contribute to the common good, or the things that benefit all members of the community. For example, everyone benefits from having safe streets, good schools, and a clean environment.

Think about what your community would be like if no one donated to charities, volunteered in after-school programs, or lent a hand at the local health clinic. What if no one ever spoke out about community problems? Communities and governments need people to participate.

Explaining Why is being informed about your government an important responsibility?

Vocabulary

1. Define responsibility, duty, draft, and tolerance. Use them in sentences related to U.S. citizenship.

Main Ideas

2. Identify three duties of U.S. citizens.

3. Describing What are the responsibilities of American citizens?

Critical Thinking

4. Why are citizens’ responsibilities to their communities an important part of our democratic system?

5. Explaining Why is it important to respect the rights of others?

6. Describing On a graphic organizer like the one below, describe three ways you can express your views and influence government.

Citizenship Activity

7. Expository Writing What do you think would happen if the legal duties of citizens became voluntary? Write a paragraph explaining your answers.
Federal Revenues and Expenditures

“The only constants in life are death and taxes.” Perhaps you have heard someone utter that line. At the federal level, there are three major taxes: the individual income tax, the corporate income tax, and the Social Security tax. Many people do not know how their tax dollars are being used. Where does the money go?

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

- National Defense 17.2%
- Medicare 12.0%
- Net Interest 7.2%
- Other 14.2%
- Social Security 21.1%
- Income Security 14.0%
- Health Benefits 10.4%
- Education and Other Health Services 3.9%

Where Your Tax Dollars Come From

- Individual Income Taxes 45.4%
- Corporate Income Taxes 11.5%
- Other Taxes 3.8%
- Social Security Taxes, other Retirement, Insurance 39.3%

Source: Department of the Treasury; Congressional Budget Office, 2006.

Analyzing Economics

1. **Concluding** Should we be required to pay taxes? Why or why not?
2. **Prioritizing** How would you change the top diagram if you were able to assign how your tax money would be spent? Why?
Guide to Reading

Big Idea
Citizen participation is essential to the foundation and preservation of the U.S. political system.

Content Vocabulary
- bureaucracy (p. 157)
- welfare (p. 158)
- volunteerism (p. 158)

Academic Vocabulary
- percent (p. 158)
- register (p. 160)
- domestic (p. 160)
- annual (p. 162)

Reading Strategy
Organizing Information
As you read, complete a graphic organizer like the one below in which you list ways that people can take action and contribute to their community.

Real World Civics

The “Dragon Slayers” are teen members of the Aniak Volunteer Fire Department in Alaska. All members must undergo extensive training. In addition to fire fighting, the teens are trained as medics. Contributing to their tiny community located near Anchorage is uppermost in the minds of these young people. All volunteers must vow to abstain from drugs and alcohol and maintain passing grades in school.

The group’s volunteers—the youngest is 13—serve on the only emergency medical team within 10,000 square miles of Aniak, Alaska.
Citizen Involvement

Main Idea  By volunteering, we make our communities better places to live, gain new opportunities to solve problems, and learn new things.

Civics & You  Have you volunteered to help out at school or in your community? Read on to find out why it is important for citizens to volunteer.

Why do volunteers such as the Dragon Slayers do so much work without pay? John Gatus, a retired steamfitter who volunteers in an anti-gang neighborhood patrol, explains his reason:

“Volunteer work brings real change, change you can be a part of, change you can see with your own eyes.”

—John Gatus, as quoted in “America’s Voluntary Spirit”

Every year, more than half of all Americans do volunteer work to help make their communities better places to live. A community is a group of people who share the same interests and concerns. These volunteers include more than 14 million students in grades 6 through 12. Without the efforts of so many private citizens, many pressing social needs simply would not be met.

In the United States, federal, state, and local government provides many different services. We rely on government for everything from local police protection to national defense, from collecting household trash to ensuring clean water and air nationwide.

Citizens, though, also share responsibility for meeting community needs. The government, after all, has limited resources. In addition, governments are bureaucracies—complex systems with many departments, many rules, and many people in the chain of command.
Because of this, government cannot always respond quickly or efficiently to problems. In many cases, the best solutions come from private citizens. Good citizens are concerned about the welfare—the health, prosperity, and happiness—of all members of the community.

In 1961 President John F. Kennedy issued a challenge: “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” President George W. Bush in 2005 noted that we can show “the world the true values of America through the gathering momentum of a million acts of responsibility and decency and service.”

**Donating Time and Money**

People help their communities in many ways, working independently or as part of volunteer groups both large and small. Neighbors might gather to spend a Saturday cleaning up a highway or preparing holiday baskets for needy families. Retirees mentor schoolchildren, record books for the blind, and lead museum tours. You and your fellow students might visit nursing home patients, volunteer in an animal shelter, or collect canned goods for a local food pantry.

Giving your time to work on community projects is the core of **volunteerism**—the practice of offering your time and services to others without payment. However, Americans may also support worthy causes by contributing money. Annually, individual Americans give more than $250 billion to charity. Much of this money comes from small donations by average citizens. The typical American donates about 2 **percent**, or portion of an amount in hundredths, of his or her income to charity.
Marian Wright Edelman once told an interviewer that she “never for a moment lacked a purpose worth fighting, living, or dying for.” At first, Edelman found her purpose in the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Then, in 1973, she organized the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF). The CDF’s mission is to institute programs to keep children healthy, in school, and out of trouble.

Edelman, the youngest of five children, credits her parents with teaching her to help other people. “Working for the community was as much a part of our existence as eating and sleeping,” Edelman recalled. With her parents’ support, she obtained a law degree and went on to become the first African American woman to practice law in Mississippi. She also served as a leader in the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Edelman’s work with the CDF earned her the reputation as “the children’s crusader.” Today the CDF is the leading lobby on behalf of children, especially the more than 12 million children who live in poverty. In 2000, Edelman received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award. In 2005, Edelman and the CDF responded to the destruction along the Gulf Coast caused by Hurricane Katrina by aiding hurricane survivors and helping displaced families locate their loved ones.

Volunteers in Action

Main Idea Young people can make a difference by volunteering.

Civics & You Is it okay to want some benefits for yourself from volunteering? Think about this question as you read.

Responsible citizens are concerned about the welfare of the community as a whole. They may be concerned about the environment, or surroundings of the community, or about the quality of life.

Safeguarding these things may require government action. It could mean cleaning up a toxic waste dump that is polluting the water, adding more police officers to combat drug trafficking, or building more parks.

Having concern for our communities is not enough, however. Our concern must be supported by our action. No community or government has the money or resources to provide for the welfare of all its people or to solve all its problems. It counts on volunteers to help.

Community Involvement

Community involvement tends to be rooted in individual action and informal groups. People are more likely to participate when they feel a connection to a cause or know others involved. Thus they join their Neighborhood Watch or become active at their child’s school. They reach out to the community through their religious congregations or their work through service clubs such as the Lions and Kiwanis. Some people, however, volunteer through more formal channels.
Charitable Organizations

More than 1 million charities are officially registered, or recorded, with the federal government. Many are small and locally based. These organizations often work on one or two projects, such as helping the victims of domestic, or home, abuse or preserving a historic building. Other organizations are large national charities serving millions of people.

School-Based Programs

More than half of all United States middle and high schools now arrange community service for students in grades 6 through 12. Several hundred school districts in various states even require it. In Atlanta, Chicago, and the entire state of Maryland, for example, high school students must volunteer a set number of hours to earn a graduation diploma.

Global Responsibility Peace Corps volunteers learn about installing toilet bowls in preparation for work in Western Samoa. 

Explaining Why is it important that people support communities around the world?

National Service Programs

During his Inaugural Address in 1961, President John F. Kennedy challenged Americans to work together to fight poverty, disease, and war in the poorest corners of the world. Less than two months later, Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps.

Since that time, the Peace Corps has sent more than 180,000 Americans to 138 countries, where they advise farmers, teach children and young adults, help start small businesses, and fight the spread of AIDS.

AmeriCorps Here in the United States, AmeriCorps members help meet the nation’s needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. More than 50,000 Americans participate each year in AmeriCorps. In return for a year of full-time service, organization members receive an allowance to live on and money to help pay for college.
Differentiated Instruction

English Learners

Point out the word “Corps” in the name of each national service program. Model the correct pronunciation for the word to show students that the p and s are silent and that the word is a homophone with “core.” Explain that “corps” means “body or group of people.”

Analyzing Graphs

Ask:

(The box provides a key for understanding the graph. Each colored rectangle corresponds to a colored wedge in the graph. By matching colors, readers know what type of organization provides which percentage of volunteers; for example, 34.6 percent of volunteers work through religious organizations.)

Answers:

1. The Peace Corps provides help for people in other countries.

2. People 35–44 years old have the highest percentage of volunteers, followed closely by people 45–54. These people in general have the money, time, and desire to volunteer.

Using Online Applications

Some high school graduates choose to spend time working for AmeriCorps before beginning college, trade school, or a career. AmeriCorps volunteers may work in another state—some are currently working on the Gulf Coast, rebuilding the structures destroyed by Katrina. Others may work in their home cities with organizations such as Big Brothers.

Have students go online to http://www.americorps.gov/ to find out what the requirements for and benefits of joining AmeriCorps are. Have them print an application and work as a group to complete it and to discuss the process of using online applications.

Activity: Technology Connection

1. Identify

Comparing Percentage of Adults Active in Volunteer Work

Volunteers by Type of Organization


Analyzing Graphs

1. Identifying What national service organization provides help for people in other countries?

2. Comparing Which age group of Americans has the highest percentage of people volunteering? Why do you think this is so?
**Senior Corps** The Senior Corps provides volunteer opportunities to Americans aged 55 or older. These senior citizens take part in three main programs. Foster Grandparents work one-on-one with children with special needs. Senior Companions help other seniors meet their daily needs while living independently in their own homes. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program provides seniors with volunteer opportunities in their communities.

**USA Freedom Corps** On January 29, 2002, in his **annual**, or yearly, State of the Union address, President Bush asked Americans to join together and help, saying, “If you aren’t sure how to help, I’ve got a good place to start.”

Bush described a new program, called USA Freedom Corps. The program brings together the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and Senior Corps. Freedom Corps was designed to focus on three areas of need: responding to national emergencies, rebuilding our communities, and extending American compassion throughout the world.

**Voluntary Spirit**

Americans have a long history of volunteering. When Alexis de Tocqueville, a French political writer, visited America in the 1830s, he was amazed to see citizens pitching in to solve community problems rather than relying on the government. He explained it as “self-interest rightly understood.” In other words, by banding together to serve the community, we really serve ourselves. For example, more than 50,000 Americans participate each year in AmeriCorps. Most work through local and national organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

**Vocabulary**

1. **Define** bureaucracy, welfare, and volunteerism. Use each of these terms in sentences.

**Main Ideas**

2. **Explaining** Why is it important for citizens to volunteer?
3. **Describing** Provide at least two examples of useful services provided by volunteer groups and organizations in a community.

**Critical Thinking**

4. **BIG IDEAS** Explain why citizens have a responsibility to turn their concerns for their community into action.
5. **Identifying** On a graphic organizer like the one below, list channels through which an individual can volunteer.

**Citizenship Activity**

6. **Expository Writing** Do research or contact a local volunteer organization that was mentioned in Section 2 of this chapter. Find out what projects or problems they are working on in your community and how they use volunteers. Write a one-page essay in which you provide answers to these questions.

**Study Central™** To review this section, go to glencoe.com.
Citizenship

- The combination of rights, responsibilities, and duties characterizes what it means to be a citizen of a free democratic society.
- As citizens, we are free to exercise our rights.
- In return, we are expected to fulfill certain duties and responsibilities.

Why Should I Participate?

- A key part of being a good citizen is taking an active and engaged role in your community.
- A well-planned project gives you opportunities to practice your rights and responsibilities as a citizen.
- You make a difference by participating. Your efforts are needed, valued, and respected.
- When you share your knowledge and skills to help others, you develop new skills and cultivate new knowledge.

Our Duties

Duties are things we are required to do by law.

- One of the duties of all Americans is to obey the law.
- Americans have a duty to pay taxes.
- Another duty of citizenship is to defend the nation.

Our Responsibilities

Responsibilities are things we should do. Civic responsibilities include:

- being informed;
- speaking up and voting;
- respecting others’ rights;
- respecting diversity; and
- contributing to the common good.

Active Citizens

- Participate in community service
- Do their part to make their schools, communities, and the world a better place

Neighborhood crime prevention

Registering to vote

City street cleanup

Study anywhere, anytime! Download quizzes and flash cards to your PDA from glencoe.com.
Glencoe Civics Today NTL TE ©2010

Reviewing Vocabulary
Directions: Choose the word(s) that best completes the sentence.

1. Men 18 to 25 years of age are required to register in case the country needs to draft them for _______.
   A military duty   C jury duty
   B volunteer service D school attendance

2. Listening to a neighbor in a different political party shows _______.
   A tolerance C compassion
   B obedience D responsibility

3. Recording books for the blind is an example of _______.
   A civic duty C civic responsibility
   B volunteerism D government activity

4. Your neighborhood is a kind of _______.
   A charity C bureaucracy
   B community D congregation

5. What is the most important civic duty of Americans?
   A to pay taxes
   B to obey laws
   C to serve in court
   D to attend school

6. Which civic responsibility does reading the metropolitan section of a newspaper fulfill?
   A being informed
   B respecting others
   C speaking up and voting
   D contributing to the common good

7. When was the last time the United States instituted a military draft?
   A World War II
   B World War I
   C Korean War
   D Vietnam War

Reviewing Main Ideas
Directions: Choose the best answer for each question.

Section 2 (pp. 156-162)

8. Which service do volunteers perform?
   A ensuring clean water
   B mentoring schoolchildren
   C collecting household trash
   D providing for national defense

9. Which group is a national charity?
   A United Way
   B Freedom Corps
   C church food pantry
   D Neighborhood Watch

10. Which national service program sends volunteers overseas?
    A AmeriCorps
    B Peace Corps
    C Senior Corps
    D Foster Grandparents
Critical Thinking
Directions: Base your answers to questions 11 and 12 on the table below and your knowledge of Chapter 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for Not Voting in Last Presidential Election</th>
<th>Percent Who Sited Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not registered</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t like candidates</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not interested in politics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No particular reason</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inconvenient</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reasons</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a citizen</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of town</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couldn’t get to the polls</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t get absentee ballot</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Which generalization can you make based on this chart?
A Political parties are nominating uninspiring candidates.
B Most people in this survey are shirking their civic duty.
C Most people in this survey are neglecting an important civic responsibility.
D The sample is too small to draw any valid conclusions about why people do not vote.

12. Which prediction is supported by the chart?
A Fast-track naturalization laws could double voter turnout.
B Providing shuttle buses to the polls would not increase voter participation.
C Improving the absentee voting system might raise voter turnout by 10 percent.
D Declaring voting day a national holiday could boost voter participation up to 7 percent.

Document-Based Questions
Directions: Analyze the following document and answer the short-answer questions that follow.

The following paragraph is the current oath for commissioned officers in the United States Army.

I, (name), having been appointed an officer in the Army of the United States, as indicated above in the grade of (rank) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; So help me God.

—United States Army

13. Which of the five civic duties does an army officer perform?

Extended-Response Question
15. Anthropologist Margaret Mead wrote: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Write a brief essay explaining why you agree or disagree with Mead’s statement. Use examples from the chapter to support your opinion.

Need Extra Help?
If you missed question… 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15
Go to page…          152  154  158  159  151  153  152  158  160  160  153  153  151  151  157

For additional test practice, use Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 5 on glencoe.com.
Have you ever thought about the things that bind people together? What values and beliefs do they share? The American ideal of citizenship has always stressed each citizen's responsibility to participate in political life.

As you read, think about the following:

- What are the things that unite people in a common cause?
- What values and beliefs do people in a society share?

**Reader's Dictionary**

- **self-interest**: a concern for one's own advantage or well-being
- **complacency**: self-satisfaction
- **disinterested**: free of bias; impartial
- **ruthless**: without mercy
- **unbridled**: uncontrolled
- **abridged**: cut short
- **servitude**: lack of personal freedom

![Image of Alexis de Tocqueville]

**Democracy in America**

In *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville vividly described nineteenth-century American life, politics, and morals.

The Americans, on the other hand, are fond of explaining almost all the actions of their lives by the principle of self-interest rightly understood; they show with complacency how an enlightened regard for themselves constantly prompts them to assist one another and inclines them willingly to sacrifice a portion of their time and property to the welfare of the state. In this respect I think they frequently fail to do themselves justice, for in the United States as well as elsewhere people are sometimes seen to give way to those disinterested and spontaneous impulses that are natural to man; but the Americans seldom admit that they yield to emotions of this kind; they are more anxious to do honor to their philosophy than to themselves.

—Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

![Image of United States Circuit Court Judge Learned Hand]

**The Spirit of Liberty**

In his essay “The Spirit of Liberty,” United States Circuit Court Judge Learned Hand promoted the ideal of ethical and committed citizens.

What do we mean when we say that first of all we seek liberty? I often wonder whether we do not rest our hopes too much upon constitutions, upon laws, and upon courts. These are false hopes; believe me, these are false hopes. Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. And what is this liberty which must lie in the hearts of men and women? It is not the ruthless, the unbridled will; it is not freedom to do as one likes. That is the denial of liberty, and leads straight to its overthrow. A society in
which men recognize no check upon their freedom soon becomes a society where freedom is the possession of only a savage few; as we have learned to our sorrow.

—Judge Learned Hand, “The Spirit of Liberty”

The Right to Vote

Many groups struggled to win the right to vote. Several amendments to the U.S. Constitution deal with suffrage.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

—Fifteenth Amendment (1870)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

—Nineteenth Amendment (1920)

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election . . . shall not be denied or abridged . . . by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

—Twenty-fourth Amendment (1964)

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

—Twenty-sixth Amendment (1971)

Photographs as Primary Sources

What does this photograph tell you about women’s rights in the early 1900s? For what right is this woman campaigning?

1. Connecting What connections did de Tocqueville make between the interests of individuals and the interests of groups?

2. Responding What do you think Judge Hand meant when he said, “Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women”?

3. Predicting How do you think people would respond to a compulsory voting law in the United States? Explain.

4. Evaluating and Connecting The privilege of U.S. citizenship brings with it certain responsibilities. Some responsibilities, such as obeying laws, are required. Other responsibilities, such as participating in political life, are voluntary. Make a list of the voluntary responsibilities you found in these readings. Then write a paragraph in response to the question: What do you think would happen if the voluntary responsibilities you listed became required by law?
A Nation of Givers

Through charities, churches, and foundations, Americans put their money where their cause is.

Every year, nearly two-thirds of all Americans donate money to charity. Some citizens contribute only a few dollars, while others give away millions. On average, each American contributes $1,894. All those donations add up. Americans donated a total of $248.5 billion to U.S. charities in 2004. Of this amount, about a third went to religious groups; less than 10% was donated to organizations that directly help the poor (see “Donation Nation” at right).

So why is the U.S. the most generous nation on earth? Its tax code encourages private giving in place of spending more public money on social programs. But tax breaks can’t account for all the generosity. The deduction for charitable giving cost the government $40 billion in 2004. Americans gave away more than six times that amount.

The Top Three

The largest total philanthropic gifts by individuals in 2004

**Bill and Melinda Gates**
The Microsoft chairman and his wife’s pledge to the Gates Foundation—which committed more than $1 billion to global health alone in 2004—increased its endowment to nearly $32 billion, by far the largest in the world.

**Susan T. Buffett**
The wife of Berkshire Hathaway founder Warren Buffett left 31,707 shares of company stock largely to her foundation dedicated to college scholarships and medical research.

**John M. Templeton**
The former investor pledged the money to his foundation to investigate the relationship among science, religion, and health.

Generosity’s Deep Roots

Wealthy Americans have been creating ways to give away their time and money for generations.

**1873**
**Johns Hopkins** (1795-1873), a railroad investor and merchant, leaves $7 million to found a university and hospital.

**1907**
**Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage** (1828-1918), a banking heiress, creates the Russell Sage Foundation, which offers grants to improve living conditions. Her total gift is estimated at $80 million.

**1911**
**Andrew Carnegie** (1835-1919), a Scottish-born steel baron, defines charity as a moral imperative and gives away more than $350 million in his lifetime through the Carnegie Corporation.
Read to Write

Organizing

Have students analyze the chart titled "How $248.5 Billion Gets Spent." The right side of the chart gives a breakdown of where the money donated by U.S. citizens goes. Ask students if, given the chance, they would assign money to different activities. Would they assign more to education? Give more help to solve social problems or to support medical research? Have students reapportion the money in their own charts as they think it should be spent. Then ask students to write a paragraph explaining the rationale for their decisions.

Analyzing Visuals

Guide students to locate their state on the map. Ask: (Answers will vary depending on students' state.)

Bono is the leader of the band U2. Born Paul Hewson in Dublin, Ireland, Bono has used his considerable celebrity to help less fortunate people around the world. He plays an active role in combating world poverty and promoting AIDS awareness in Africa. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for his humanitarian efforts.

Former Presidents and rivals George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton formed an unlikely partnership that turned into a friendship, raising millions after the Asian tsunami and the devastating hurricanes in the U.S.

The Bono Effect? Since 2001, development aid for poor nations has increased from $67 billion to $80 billion and is projected to rise 60% by 2010. Many European countries are committed to giving 0.7% of their gross domestic product for aid; the U.S. currently gives only 0.1%.

1913
John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937) is the founder of Standard Oil and the richest man of his time. His $450 million in contributions to public health through the Rockefeller Foundation sets a precedent for the Gates Foundation.

1919
Madam C.J. Walker (1867-1919), an African American self-made millionaire, supports social and educational institutions with the profits from her hair-care and cosmetics business.

1936
Henry Ford (1863-1947), the automotive pioneer, establishes the Ford Foundation in Dearborn, Michigan, with $25,000. Now a nationwide force, it has more than $11 billion in assets.

1977
John D. (1897-1978) and Catherine T. MacArthur (1909-1981) start their namesake foundation with the vast wealth from his insurance company, Bankers Life. Today the foundation's assets are estimated at $5 billion.