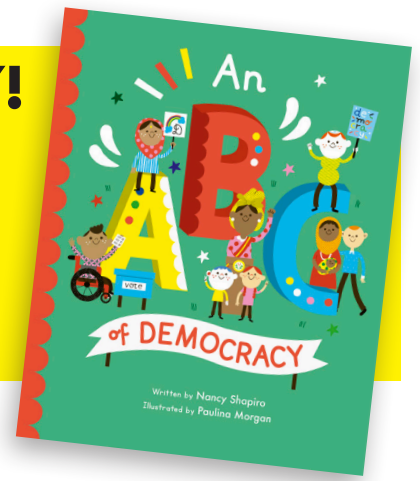


EXPLORE THE ABCS OF DEMOCRACY!

Everyone has the right to be treated fairly and equally, no matter who they are, what they look like, or where they were born. Here are some activities to explore the concepts of democracy and navigate the way politics works. Be imaginative, be mindful, and be creative!



is for ACTIVISM

Speak up for someone or anything you care about!

Make a difference by writing letters, emails, or postcards to leaders. Try it yourself:

POSTCARD

Date _____

Dear _____
[person you are writing to]

I, _____, am a _____
[your name]

[tell a little about yourself! Your name, where you live, your age]

I'm writing about _____

[issue or concern are you writing about]

because _____

[why is it important to you]

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

[your name]



An ABC of Democracy written by Nancy E.K. Shapiro, illustrated by Paulina Morgan @Quartokids quarto.com
Hardcover: 9780711264816, Board Book: 9780711264779



is for BALLOTS

A way to cast your vote in secret.



is for TURN UP

Be Counted!



is for VOTING

Voting is a central part of the democratic process.



is for WINNING

Winning is how politicians get into office.

Cast your own ballots! Come up with a question that people can answer with a yes or a no. Then, cut out the ballots below. Make a voting station: a separate table or area with a pen and the ballots. You can even use cardboard boxes to create a barrier so people have privacy when filling out their ballot. A teacher or adult can be the poll watcher who ensures that everyone knows what to do when they get to the voting station and has privacy when filling out their ballot. Everyone takes turns to go to the voting station. Once you fill out your ballot, put it in a box or hat. Once everyone has voted, take out the votes and tally up the yeses and the nos.

<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

TOTAL: YES
 NO

What did you learn from this activity?



is for EDUCATE

Stay informed.

The more knowledge you have, the better informed you are to make decisions. Over the next few weeks, seek out new information and different perspectives. Make a note of them in this journal.

Books I read:

Title	Author	Date

What did I learn?

Articles I read:

Title	Author	Date

What did I learn?

People I talked to:

Name	Date

What did I learn?



is for RULE OF LAW

Fairness matters—everyone should follow the same rules

What are the rules in your classroom, library, or house that everyone has to follow? Can you write them down and explain them?



is for POLITICIAN

Politicians are people elected to work in government.

Get together with a group of friends or classmates and discuss how you would structure government.

How would you ensure everyone's voice is being heard?
What would you do if you were an elected official?
How would you make decisions?
What rules do you think people should follow?
What happens when someone breaks a rule?



is for QUESTIONS

Go ahead and ask!

What questions do you have about government? What do you want to know about the rules you follow? Make a list:

Once you've created your list of questions, ask your teacher, adult, or peers! Take note of their answers. Do you agree? Did people offer different responses?



is for YOUR VOICE

is key in democracy.

Think about your opinions and tell everyone what you think! There are no right answers or wrong answers- even if people agree with you or don't agree with you- it is your opinion.

Tell us one thing that you like about this classroom/library that you want to stay the same?

Give one suggestion for something to change in this classroom/library.

Once you're come up with your answers, have everyone sit in a circle and share their responses. Everyone will have a chance to speak.

Activists use posters to deliver their messages. Words, short slogans, and bold images can be seen from far away and are good for posters. What cause are you passionate about? Make a poster showing your opinion. Ask your adults to share your poster with us @QuartoKids!



Created by Nancy E.K. Shapiro.

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6

