



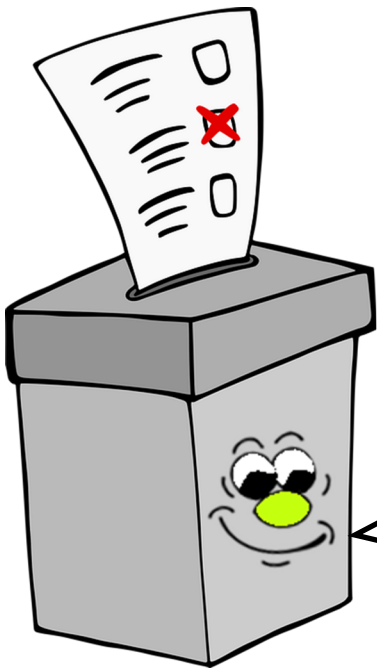
VOTING

for Kids

Fun and fact-filled activities, games, puzzles, and more!

Don't miss out on all the fun stuff inside!

**An activity booklet for kids created by the Ulster County
Board of Elections and the Ulster County Clerk's
Records Management Program**



Hi! I'm Billie Ballot. Welcome to Voting for Kids. I will be your guide on this lively adventure through National, State and Local elections and government. There will be some exciting history and "Fun Facts" along the way. Let's have some fun!

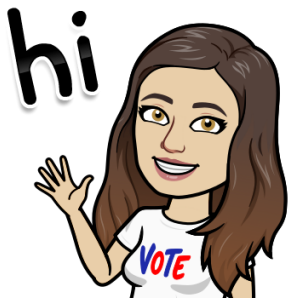
First, I'd like to introduce you to some of my friends from the Ulster County Board of Elections and Ulster County Clerk's Office. Thanks to them, we have this awesome book of activities to complete!

About the Ulster County Board of Elections

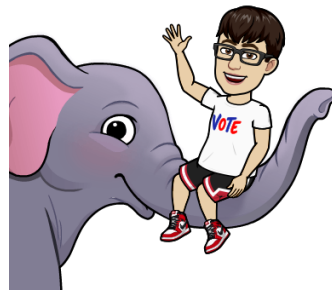
The Ulster County Board of Elections is dedicated to upholding the laws of the United States, the mandates of the New York State Constitution, and the Rights of the People of New York to cast their votes in all Federal, State, County, Town, Village (upon request), and required Special Elections, to fairly and accurately count the ballots for public offices, propositions and bond issues, and to safeguard the free elections of a democratic society. Annually, more than 600 poll-site inspectors are trained, more than 10,000 voters are registered or have their voter information updated, and approximately 125,000 voters are contacted with election-related information.

About the Ulster County Clerk's Office

The Ulster County Clerk's Office acts as keeper of the records for Ulster County. We oversee records dating back to 1658 including deeds, mortgages, judgments, liens, maps, civil and criminal actions. Yearly, hundreds of people search, file and record land records, legal documents, and court papers in the office. The County Clerk's Office also manages the Department of Motor Vehicles, administers the Oath of Allegiance to new citizens, processes passport and notary applications, and maintains the County Archives, as well as providing services for businesses and veterans.



Ashley Torres
Elections Commissioner



John Quigley
Elections Commissioner

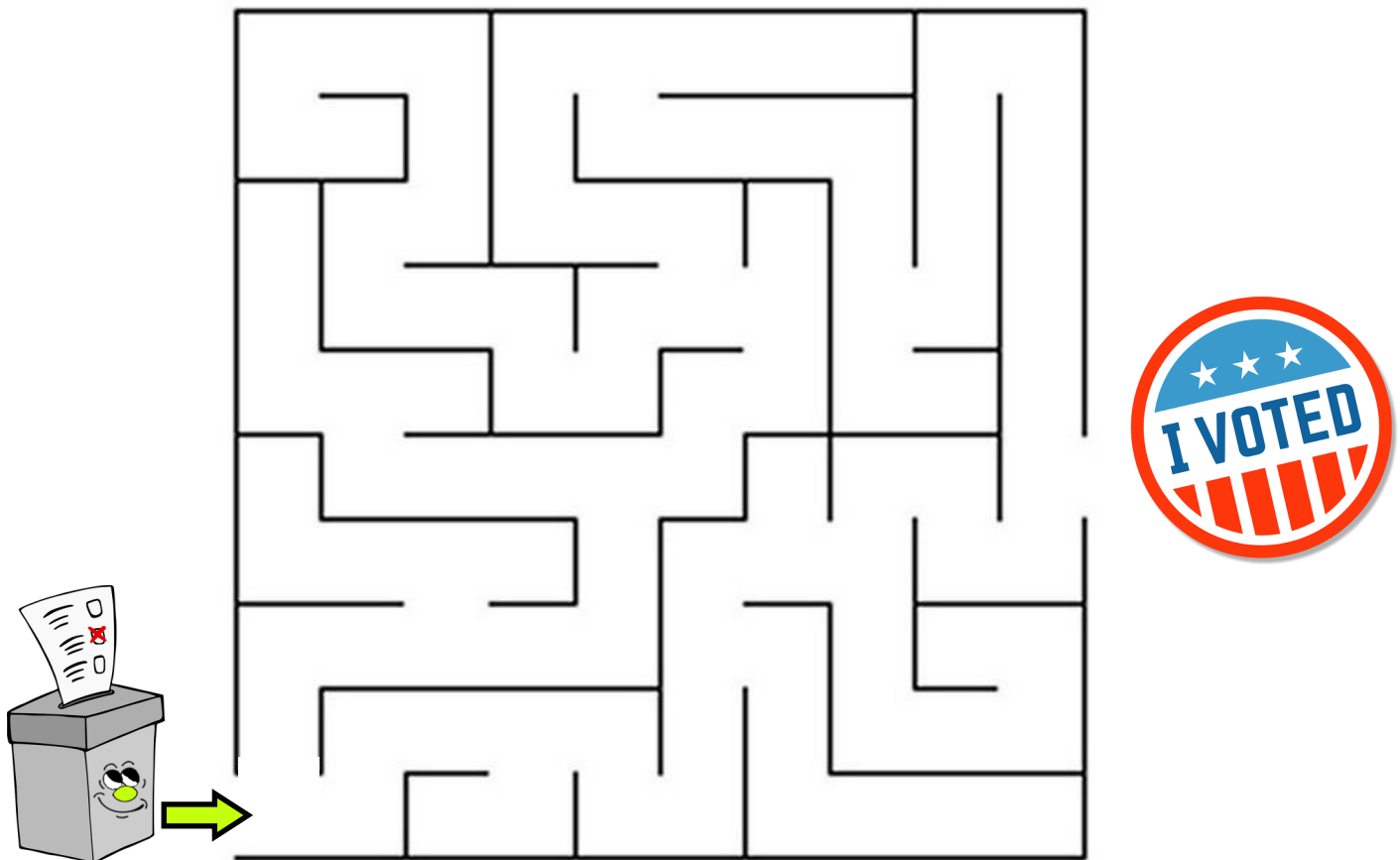


Taylor Bruck
Acting County Clerk

What is Voting?

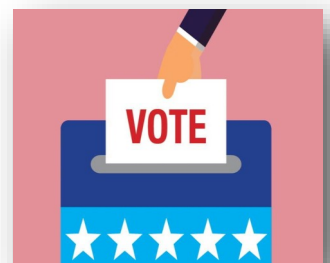
We vote to have a say over important decisions. Voting happens all the time—your family may vote on which restaurant to visit or you might vote on your favorite show to watch for family movie night. Our nation was created on the principle that people should control their government; that is done through citizens casting votes during elections. We don't ask people to vote on every decision, but instead elect representatives. In our government, we vote for people who represent our ideals and these representatives go on to make decisions that benefit the whole country.

Help Billie Find the Way to Vote!



Follow the Voting Path

1. **Register to vote**—Make sure to register to vote and keep your registration information such as your address current.
2. **Know the issues**—Learn about the candidates and questions that will be on the ballot.
3. **Visit a polling location**—Voting has never been easier in New York with options to vote early in-person, on election day, and by absentee ballot/vote by mail.
4. **Wait for results**—Preliminary results from the election will be available after the polls close on election day and the results are final about 2-3 weeks later after every vote is counted.



Visit VOTEULSTER.com for more details about the path to voting.

Now it is your turn — Make your voice heard!

- To Vote:** Fill in the oval completely.
- Over Vote:** Make sure you do not Over Vote. You may only vote for the allowable number of choices (Vote for 1; Vote for 2, etc.).
- Write-in Vote:** For a Write-In vote, locate the "Write-In" box at the bottom of the Office column and write your selection there.
- Review your Ballot:** Please review your ballot to make sure your choices are marked the way you want. Turn the ballot over to see if there are additional voting questions called "Referendums." During an election, you would then insert your ballot into a voting machine to be tallied.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Favorite Candy (Vote for one)	Favorite Animal (Vote for one)	Favorite Ice Cream Flavor (Vote for one)	Favorite School Subject (Vote for any two)	
Pizza Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{1A} Snickers Bar Pizza Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{2A} Horses Pizza Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{3A} Vanilla Pizza Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{4A} Math Pizza Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{5A} Music Pizza Party
Bowling Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{1B} Sour Patch Kids Bowling Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{2B} Monkeys Bowling Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{3B} Chocolate Bowling Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{4B} Science Bowling Party	
Skating Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{1C} M&M's Skating Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{2C} Lions Skating Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{3C} Cookie Dough Skating Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{4C} Art Skating Party	
Pool Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{1D} Skittles Pool Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{2D} Kangaroos Pool Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{3D} Cake Batter Pool Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{4D} English Pool Party	
Costume Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{1E} Baby Ruth Costume Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{2E} Tigers Costume Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{3E} Mint Chocolate Chip Costume Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{4E} Social Studies Costume Party	
Dance Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{1F} Starburst Dance Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{2F} Penguins Dance Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{3F} Rainbow Sherbet Dance Party	<input type="radio"/> ^{4F} Gym Dance Party	
Write-in	Write-in:	Write-in:	Write-in:	Write-in:	Write-in:

Ulster County ICP and BMD
Test Ballot
July 4, 2021

The number of choices are listed for each contest. Do not mark the ballot for more candidates than allowed. If you do, your vote in that contest will not count. If you make a mistake, or want to change your vote, ask a poll worker for a new ballot.

Instructions
Mark the oval to the right of the name of your choice.
To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, print the name clearly under the words 'Write-in', staying within the box.

The United States Constitution

Our United States Constitution sets out the principles of our country, the organization of our government, and the rights of our citizens. July 4, 1776 is the day we declared our Independence and became the United States— but our Constitution wasn't established until September 17, 1787.

- ◆ **Sets the foundation**—It is the most important law of the land.
- ◆ **States individual rights**—Individual rights are identified in the Bill of Rights and later amendments. The Bill of Rights, created in 1789 & adopted in 1791, contains the first ten Amendments to the Constitution.
- ◆ **Defines the parts of government**—We call them “branches” of government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial). They work together as equal partners. Each branch has unique powers and duties.
- ◆ **Explains how to make changes**—This is why the Constitution is called a *living* document. Changes and Amendments can be made to suit the changing needs of the people. There have been 27 Amendments so far.



Interesting facts

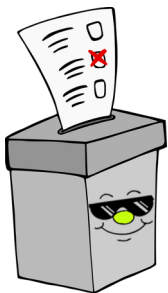
- ◆ We all make spelling mistakes—even the constitutional framers. One unfortunate example is the misspelling of the word “Pensylvania” above the signers’ names.
- ◆ The first national Thanksgiving Day was proclaimed on November 26, 1789. The reason for the holiday was to give “thanks” for the constitution.
- ◆ The word “democracy” does not appear in the constitution.
- ◆ 2/3 of the states must agree to a change in the constitution. Thousands of amendments to the constitution have been proposed, but only 27 have passed, the last one being on May 5, 1992.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

True or False?

Circle Your Answer

1. True or False The Executive Branch (the President and Administration) manages all the branches of our government.
2. True or False The Constitution granted individual rights such as being able to vote, freedom of speech, and freedom to practice any religion.
3. True or False The U.S. Constitution is the oldest active codified (single, comprehensive document) constitution in the world.
4. True or False The U.S. Constitution was adopted as the highest law of the land on July 4, 1776.
5. True or False The U.S. Constitution outlines three branches of government.



BILLIE BALLOT FUN FACTS

Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison believed very strongly in the Constitution. They even wrote a series of 85 essays, entitled The Federalist Papers.

They used the pseudonym (a made up name) Publius for the author so that no one would know they had written the essays. "Publius" was the name of a great Roman leader and founder of the Roman Republic, an inspiration for our own republic.



Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States is a 1940 oil-on-canvas painting by Howard Chandler Christy, depicting the Constitutional Convention signing the U.S. Constitution at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. Christy created the painting in April 1940; it is so large (20 by 30 feet) that he painted it in a sail loft. It is currently displayed along the east stairway in the House of Representatives wing in the Capitol building.



(Left to Right) Alexander Hamilton by John Trumbull, James Madison by John Vanderlyn, and John Jay by Gilbert Stuart.

Three Branches of Government

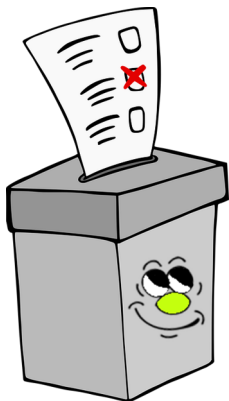
Our country was created with the principle that no single person or group could hold too much power. As a result, the U.S. Constitution established three main parts, called branches of government. Each branch is separate and has its own responsibilities AND each branch can check the power of other branches.



White House— Executive

The Executive Branch, led by the President, enforces national laws.

The President can pass into law or reject laws passed by Congress and sometime suggests new laws for them to consider. The President works with the Vice President and a group of appointed advisors for help.



Congress— Legislative

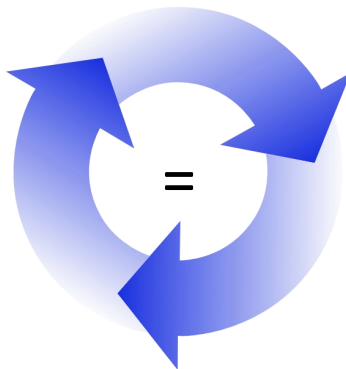
The Legislative Branch, known as Congress, is made up of Senators and U.S. Representatives elected by people from state districts. There are 100 Senators (two from each state) and 435 Representatives (based on population). The main job of Congress is to pass laws.

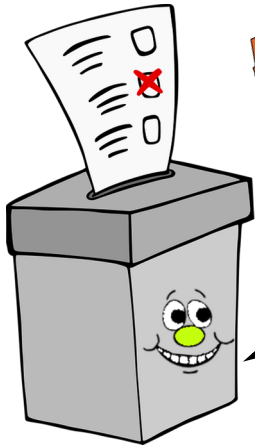


Supreme Court— Judicial

The Judicial Branch is the federal court system. It is headed by the U.S.

Supreme Court, the highest court in the nation. The members, called justices, review cases to determine whether laws or actions meet the standards of the constitution.





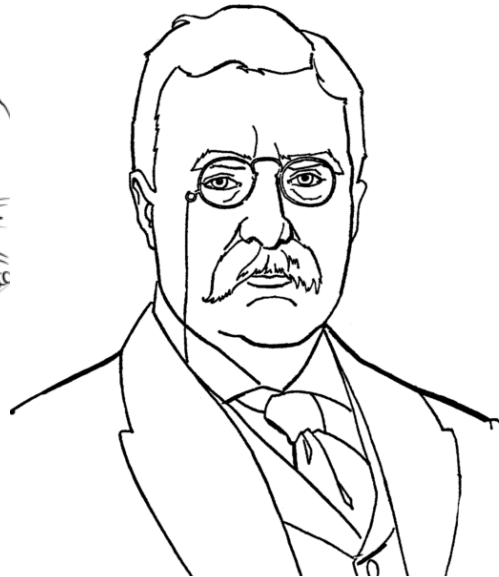
It takes a lot of people to help a government run. Here are some of the many important people who have helped shape our government. Have you heard of them? If not, maybe look them up!



John Lewis
Congressman, 1987-2020



Thurgood Marshall
Supreme Court Justice, 1967-1991



Theodore Roosevelt
26th President, 1901-1909



Margaret Chase Smith
Senator, 1949-1973



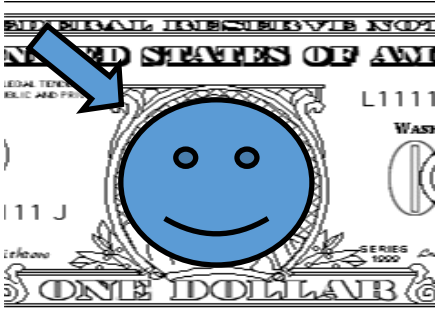
Shirley Chisholm
Congresswoman, 1977-1981

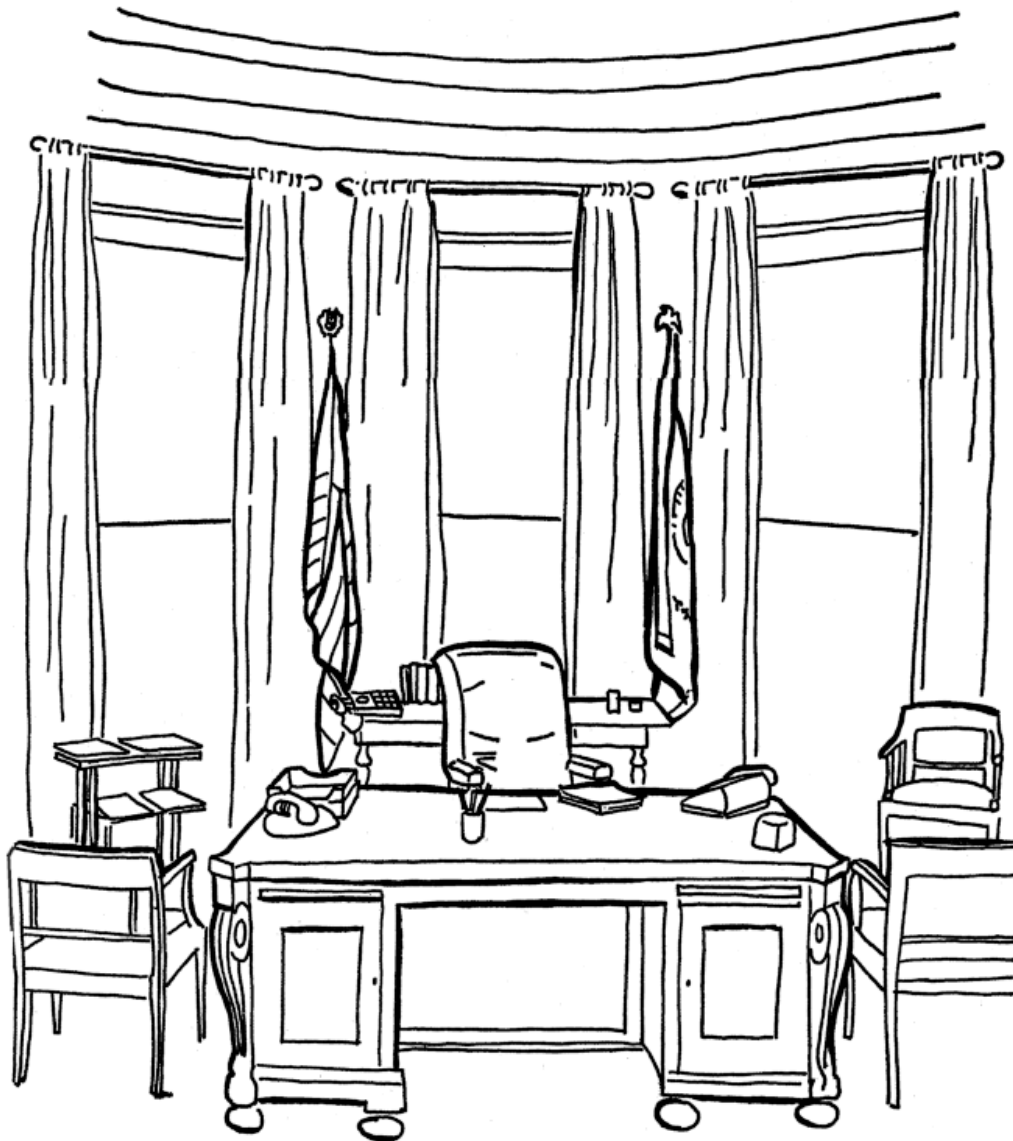


Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Supreme Court Justice, 1993-2020

If I were President of the United States, what would I do?

Your Picture Here!!!



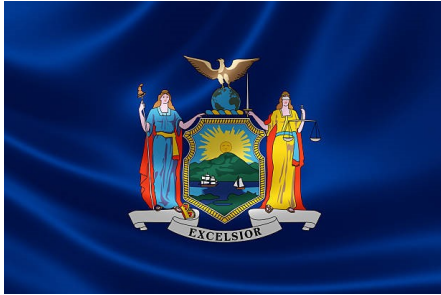


The President does a lot of work in the Oval Office, in the White House. What would the Oval Office look like if you were President? Draw yourself in!



Symbols of Our Country

The United States has a unique national identity. Many different cultures make up our country. One way we come together is through shared symbols and traditions drawn from the diversity of our people such as songs, national mottos, and monuments. Some of our patriotic symbols and traditions are included below. **Match them up by drawing a line to the correct symbol.**



1.



2.



3.



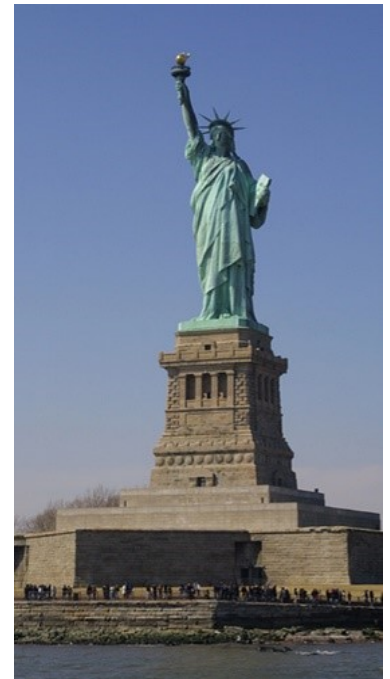
5.



4.



6.



7.

A. American Flag

B. Icons of Political Parties

C. Great Seal of the United States

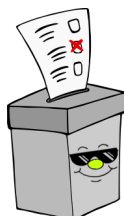
D. Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

E. Statue of Liberty

F. New York State Flag

G. Liberty Bell

BILLIE BALLOT
FUN FACTS



Remember the misspelling of Pennsylvania in the Constitution? Well, the Liberty Bell had the same problem. Part of the inscription reads, "By Order of the ASSEMBLY of the Province of PENNSYLVANIA." Oops, I think someone needs a proof-reader!



Let's have some fun and make up our own National Anthem! Have you heard of "Mad Libs"? Well, this is our version. Fill in the blanks in the song using your own words or words from the Word Box. I can't wait to hear what you come up with!

Fill in the blanks National Anthem— (to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star).

Try your hand at making a patriotic song about the place where you live. You never know, it might just catch on! Use your own words or select from the box provided. →

_____ Action Word _____ Action Word _____ Concept Word _____ Place/Thing Word _____

How I _____ Action Word what you _____ Concept Word .

Up above the _____ Place/Thing Word so _____ Concept Word ,

Like a _____ Concept Word in the sky.

_____ Action Word _____ Action Word _____ Concept Word _____ Place/Thing Word _____

How I _____ Action Word what you _____ Concept Word .

Created by: _____ Your Name _____

WORD BOX

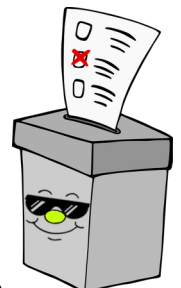
Place/Thing Words:
 Motherland, Homeland, Country, Nation, America, New York, Flag

Patriotic Concept Word:
 Glory, Freedom, Courage, Diversity, Tradition, Opportunity, Powerful, Truth, Democracy, Liberty

Action Words:
 Helping, Honoring, Sharing, Loving, Action, Working, Voting

**BILLIE BALLOT
 FUN FACTS**

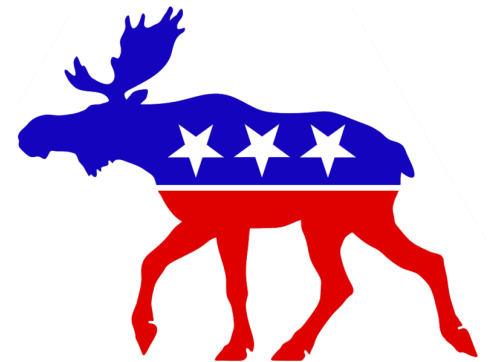
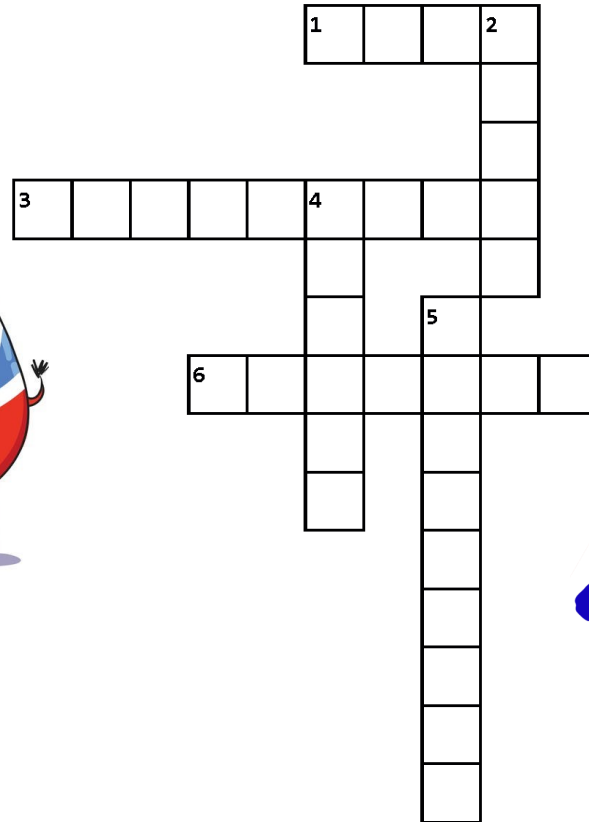
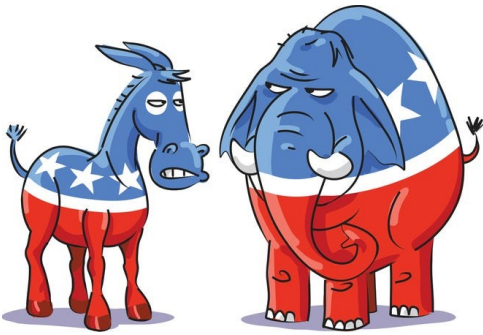
My Country, 'Tis of Thee, written by Samuel Francis Smith, was performed first on July 4, 1831 and is based on the British National Anthem "God Save the Queen."



We are taught that the United States of America is made up of 50 states and Washington D.C. Did you know there are other U.S. territories that are not states? These include Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam. Territories usually have their own organized government but fall under the sovereignty of the U.S. government. Residents of U.S. territories cannot vote for U.S. President and do not have full representation in Congress.

ALL ABOUT **PRIMARY** ELECTIONS

Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Not about your hairdo!
3. You may see one in the Adirondack forest.
6. Yellow is a _____ color.

Down

2. Kermit the frog may approve.
4. A place where your mom or dad might work.
5. Someone who runs for President, for example.

Word Bank: Bullmoose • Candidate • Green • Office • Primary • Whig

Okay, let's talk about primary elections!

Imagine you and your friends want to choose someone to represent your class in a big school competition. But first, your class needs to decide who that person will be. A primary election is like the first round of voting to pick the best person from each team or group who wants to be the class representative.

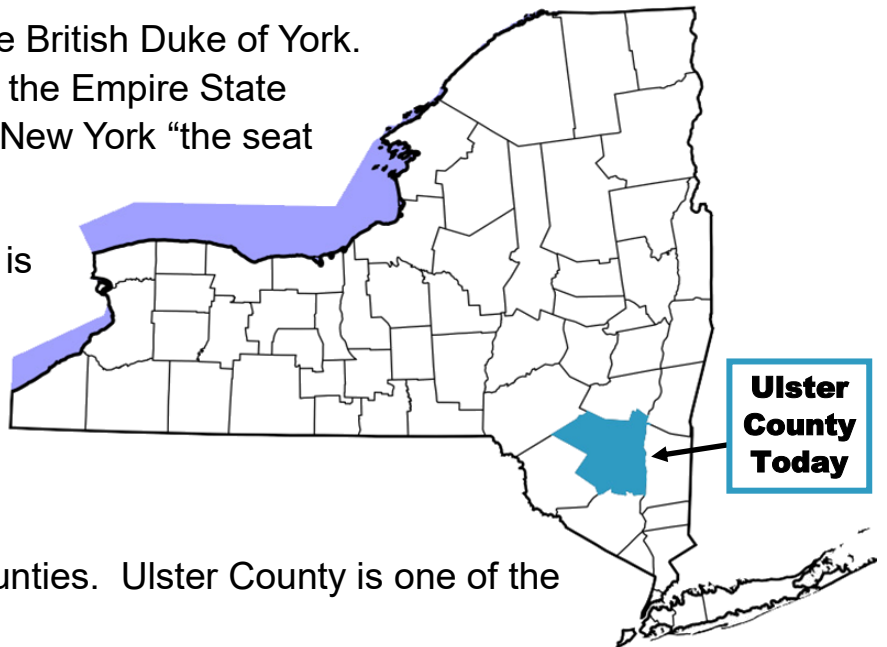
In the real world, political parties have many people who want to run for a big job, like being the president, those people are called **candidates**. But they can't all run at once, so they hold a **primary** election. During the primary, people vote to choose one person from each party who they think would do the best job. The person with the most votes in the primary becomes the party's candidate for the final election and if they win, they get to hold **office**. Some parties have had funny names like **Bullmoose**, **Green** and **Whig**.

So, in short, a primary election helps a party pick its main player for the big game—just like choosing who will represent your class!

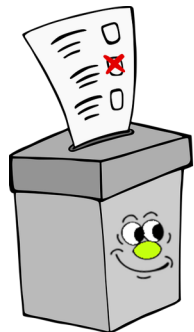
New York State & Ulster County

New York State was named after the British Duke of York. Many experts believe it's nicknamed the Empire State because George Washington called New York "the seat of the Empire."

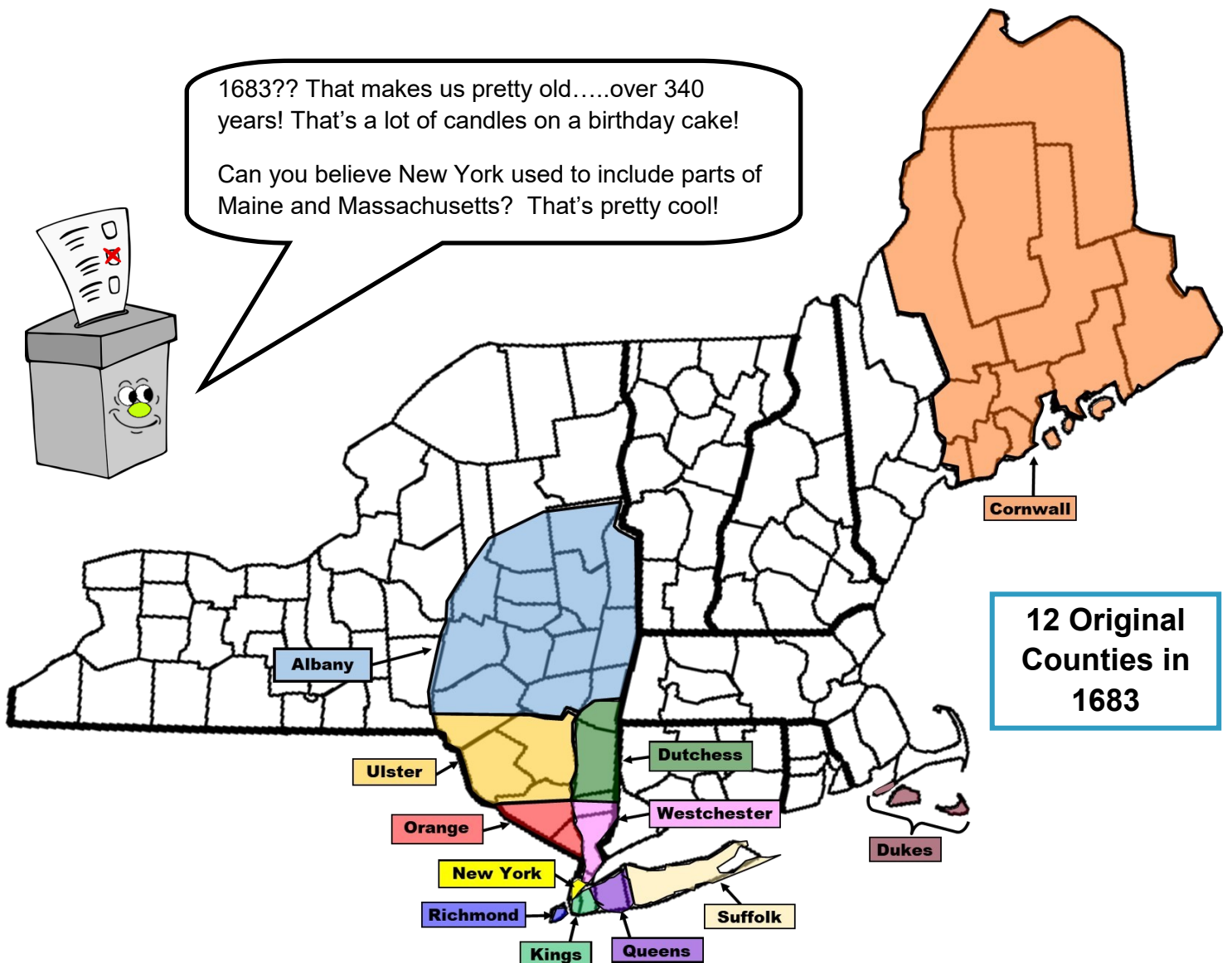
The official state motto for New York is "Excelsior," a Latin word that means "Ever Upward." It was adopted in 1778 during the Revolutionary War, to show the colonists' hopes for a bright future.



New York State is made up of 62 counties. Ulster County is one of the original 12 counties created in 1683.



1683?? That makes us pretty old.....over 340 years! That's a lot of candles on a birthday cake!
Can you believe New York used to include parts of Maine and Massachusetts? That's pretty cool!



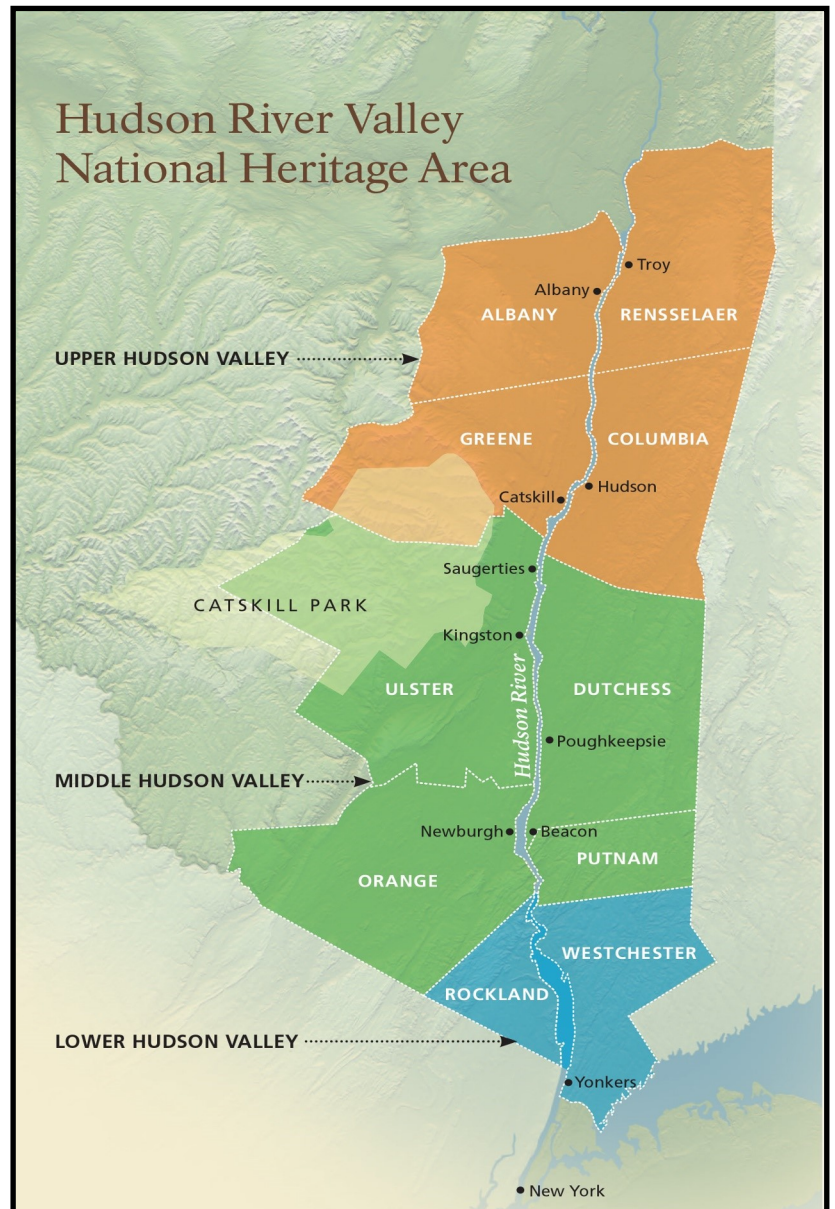
Where in New York Is Ulster County?

Ulster County is in the **Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area** and the **Catskills** region.

The **Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area** covers land from Albany & Rensselaer Counties in the north to Rockland & Westchester Counties in the south. It is one of 55 federally-recognized National Heritage Areas in the U.S.

Ulster County is part of the **Middle Hudson Valley** area, which also includes Orange, Dutchess and Putnam Counties.

The **Catskills** region lies mostly in Greene and Ulster Counties, with parts in a few other bordering counties. Five towns in Ulster County are completely inside the Catskill Park—Denning, Shandaken, Hardenburgh, Woodstock and Kingston (the town, not the city).



Can You Unscramble the Names of These Hudson Valley Cities & Towns?

Hint—Use the map above to find the city & town names!

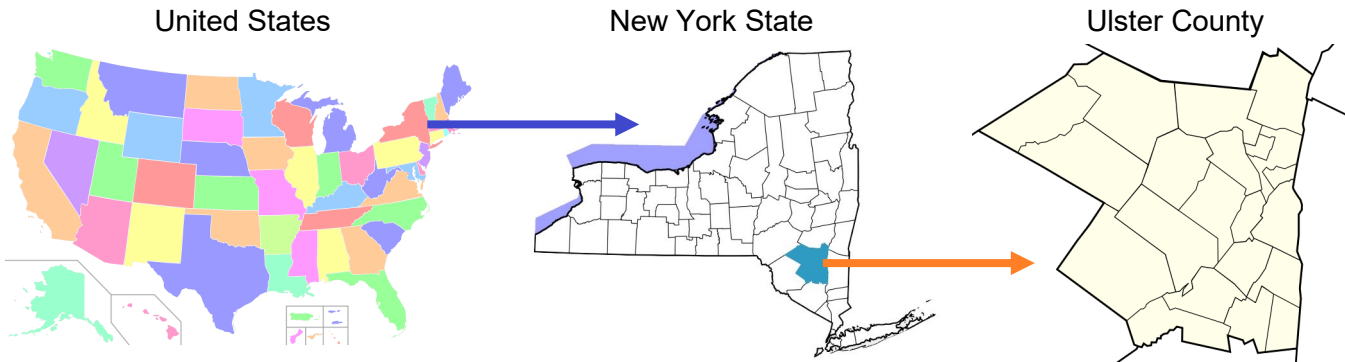
OTRY _____
 EYRKNSO _____
 SICLALTK _____
 BCOANE _____
 TUSEGREIA _____

SNUDOH _____
 NNKISOTG _____
 YANLAB _____
 BUWNEGHR _____
 SOEUPEHKPEGI _____

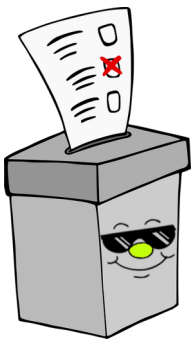


What is Ulster County?

A **County** is the largest division for local government within a state.



BILLIE BALLOT FUN FACTS



Ulster County is a pretty cool place! There are lots of fascinating facts and interesting people around here. Check out some of these fun facts...

On September 9, 1777, while serving as Chief Justice, Founding Father John Jay oversaw the opening of the Ulster County Courthouse under the New York Government.

Professional boxer Billy Costello was born in Kingston in 1956. In 1978 at age 22, Costello won the New York Golden Gloves Championship in his weight division. In 1984, he knocked out Bruce Curry to win the World Boxing Council's Junior Welterweight title. In retirement, Costello became a volunteer director for the Kingston PAL Boxing Club and frequently appeared as a pro-boxing judge and referee.

Ulster County was featured in the December 2016 edition of National Geographic Magazine highlighting some of the County's environmental achievements.

The County includes more than 40 miles (64 km) of rail trails along the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, and O&W Rail Trail. The Walkway Over the Hudson, the world's longest pedestrian and bicycle bridge which spans the Hudson River, is connected within Ulster County trails.

There are 194 sites & districts throughout Ulster County on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ashokan Reservoir is at the eastern end of the Catskill Park, and is one of several in the region created to provide the City of New York with water. As the city's deepest reservoir, the Ashokan Reservoir covers land in three Ulster County Towns: Olive, Hurley & Marletown.

In 1777, Kingston was designated as the first Capitol—or seat of government—of New York because it was considered safer from the British forces than Albany or New York City.

Entertainer Jimmy Fallon was raised in Saugerties from age two. He graduated from Saugerties High School, where he had performed in many stage productions.

Slide Mountain in the town of Shandaken is the highest peak in the Catskill Mountains, as well as the highest point in Ulster County.

Marletown native Romeo E. Muller, Jr. was a screenwriter and actor most remembered for his 1960s screenplays of TV specials Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town, The Little Drummer Boy, Here Comes Peter Cottontail, and Frosty the Snowman.

Abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth (born Isabella Baumfree) was born in Esopus in 1797. She was born into slavery but escaped with her infant daughter in 1826. Two years later she fought for her son Peter's freedom in the Ulster County Courthouse, as he had been illegally sold to a slave owner in Alabama. After months of legal proceedings, Truth won back her son, and became one of the first black women to go to court against a white man and win.

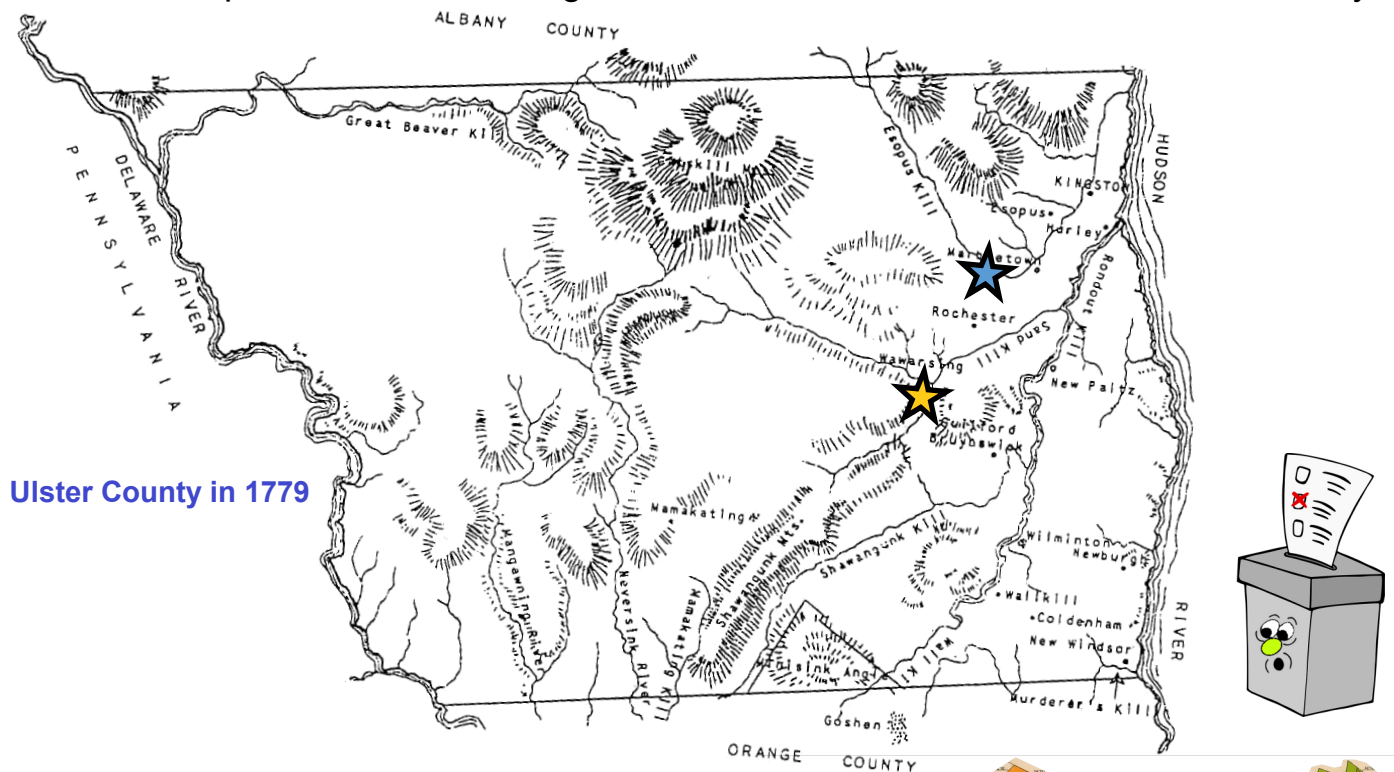
How Has Our Government Changed?

1683 Board of Supervisors ► 1968 Legislature

Ulster County was officially formed on November 1, 1683. It was governed by a **Board of Supervisors**. There was one supervisor from each town and as more towns were created, more supervisors were added to the Board.

In 1968, the County moved from a Board of Supervisors to a **Legislature**. Instead of a representative from each town, the Legislature was divided into 12 districts with 33 total legislators. Each district had a similar number of people in it to more equally represent Ulster County's citizens.

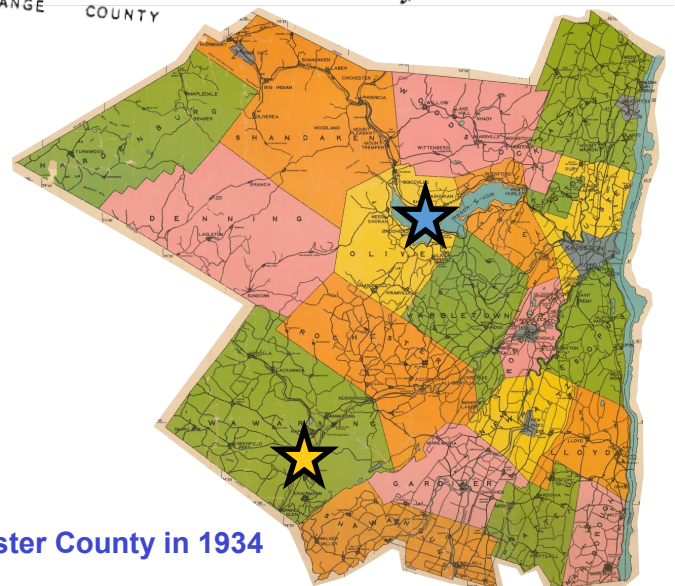
The Board of Supervisors and the Legislature made all of the decisions for our County.



Ulster County in 1779

Ulster County changed in size over the years, forming new county borders and new towns.

These maps are 155 years apart. The 2 blue stars are the approximate location of the Ashokan Reservoir and the 2 yellow stars are the Village of Ellenville. What a difference!



Ulster County in 1934

1968 Legislature ► 2006 Executive & Legislature

In 2006, Ulster County residents adopted a new charter that changed the form and functioning of our government. We now have a **County Executive** and a re-districted **Legislature**. This helps to separate and balance the power in our local government.

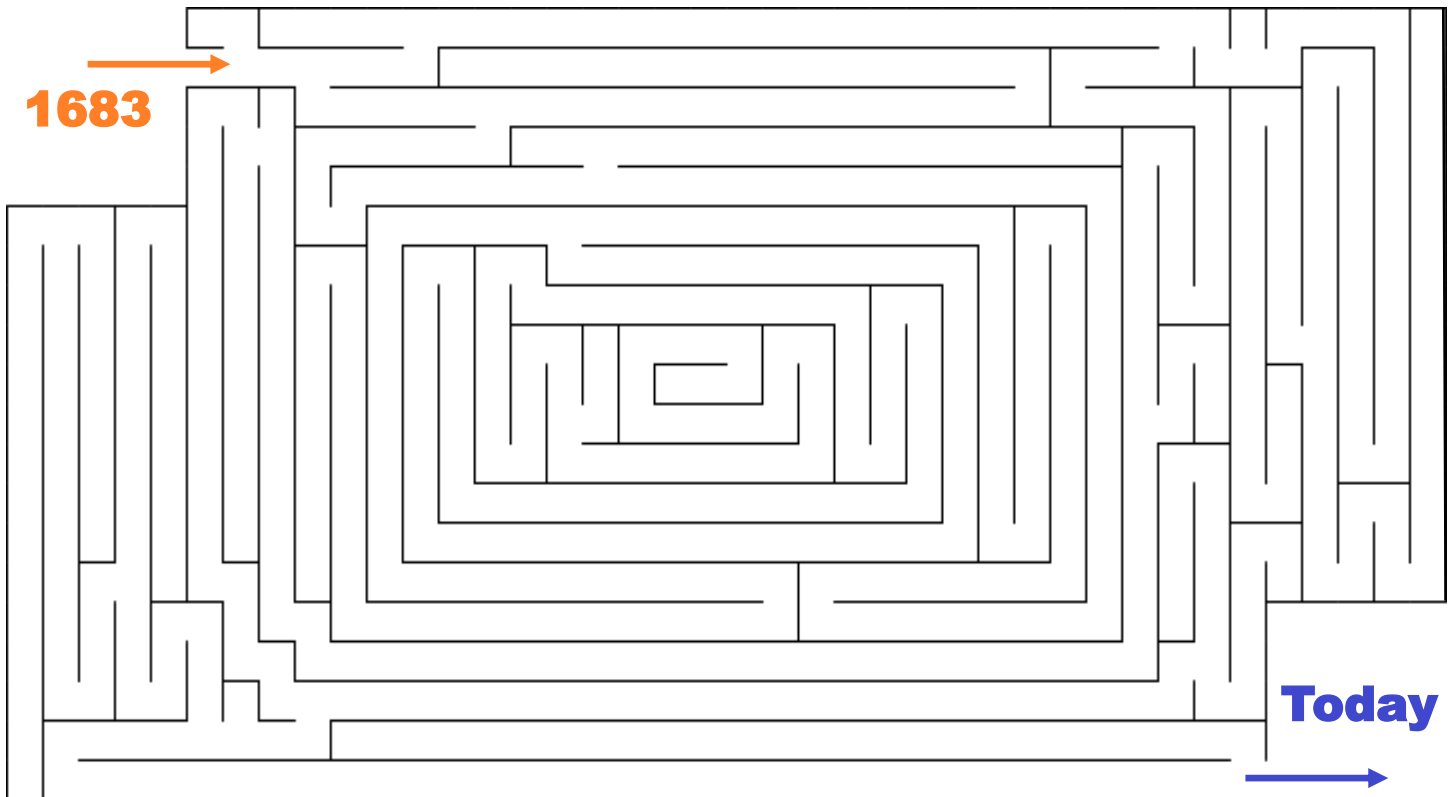
The new **County Executive** serves as the county's Chief Executive. Some of the powers and duties of the Executive include appointing department heads, creating the county's budget, approving contracts and local laws, making recommendations to the County Legislature about county affairs, and much more. The County Executive is elected every four years.

The new **County Legislature** is divided into 23 districts and one person is elected from each district to serve as a legislator. The Legislature can enact, amend and rescind local laws and resolutions. They are also responsible for approving the budget, conducting studies and investigations, and much more. Legislators are elected every two years.



Hey, I think this maze looks pretty tough!
You might want to use a pencil, just in case.

Help our government move from its formation to today!

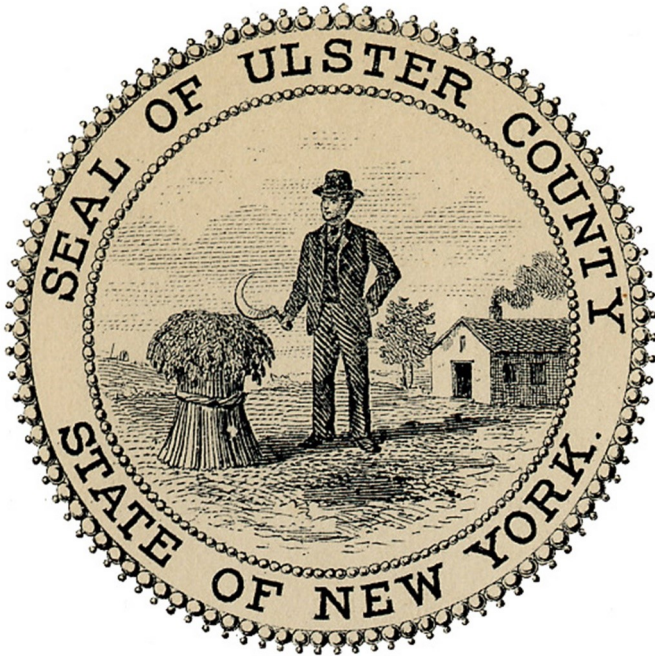


The Seal of Ulster County

A County Seal is a design or emblem, belonging to the county, which bears an imprint and is put on documents to show they are official. The Ulster County Seal (whether old or new) represents a sheaf of grain, a farmer and a Dutch stone house.

Below are pictures of two different seals that have been used by the County. The first was used in the 1800's through 1974. On March 14, 1974, the new seal was adopted by the Ulster County Legislature, along with a new flag that would bear the image of the seal. Both the flag and the official seal were adopted for the upcoming 1976 bicentennial celebration.

In the 1800's this was the seal of Ulster County.



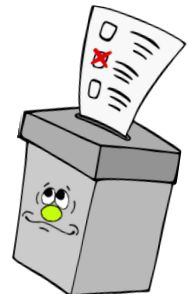
In 1974 the seal was changed to look like this.



Can You Spot the Differences?

There are several differences between these seals. Can you name three of them?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

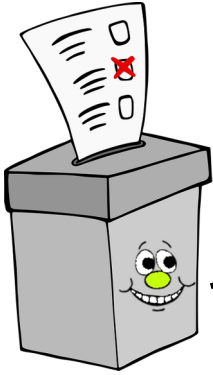


Bonus Questions!

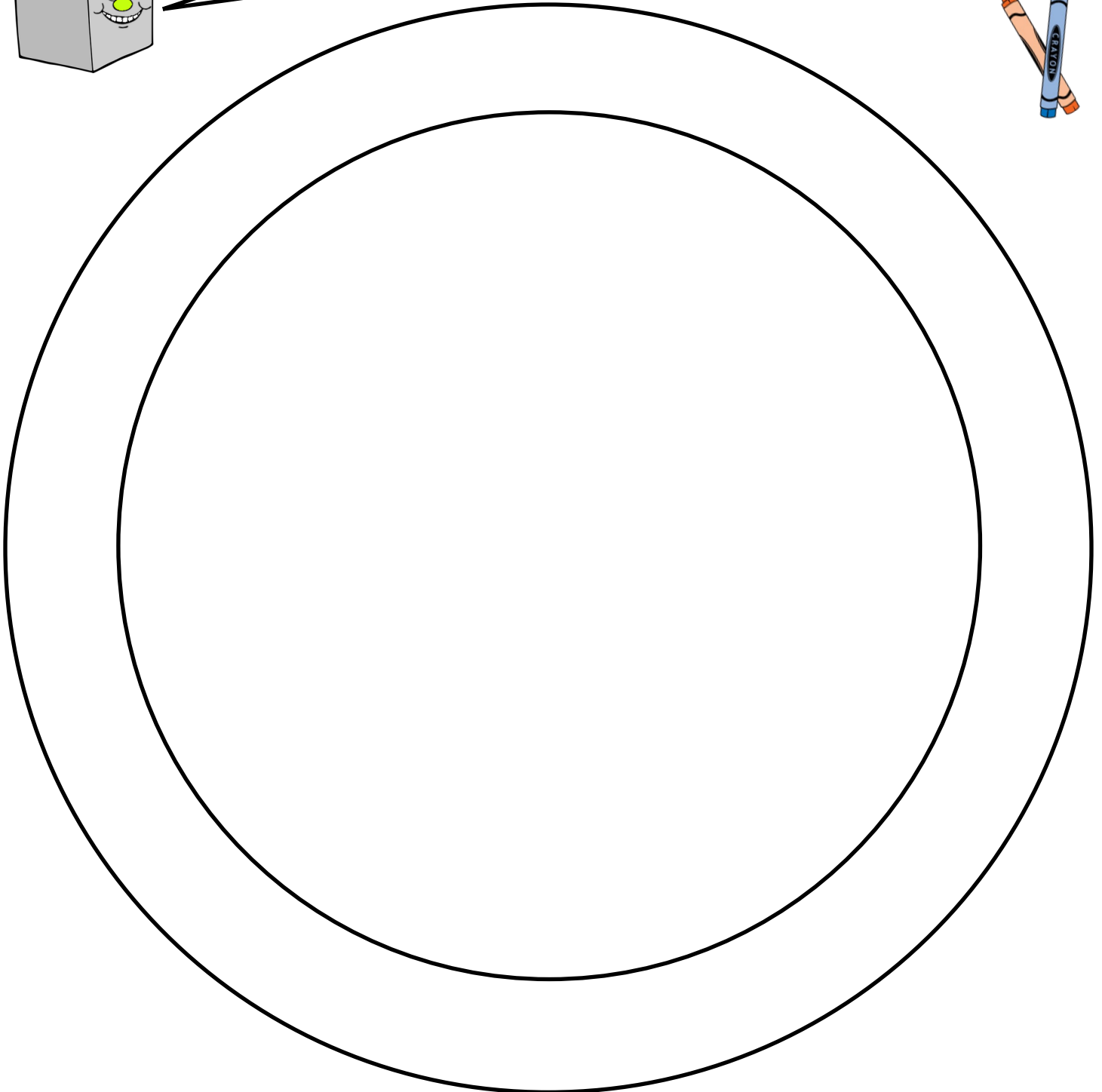
Why is 1683 an important year for Ulster County? _____

How many years does a "bicentennial" celebrate? _____

Design Your Own Seal



Create a seal to represent you, your family or your school. Think of at least three symbols you would put on the seal. What words would you put around the edge? Have fun and color in your design!



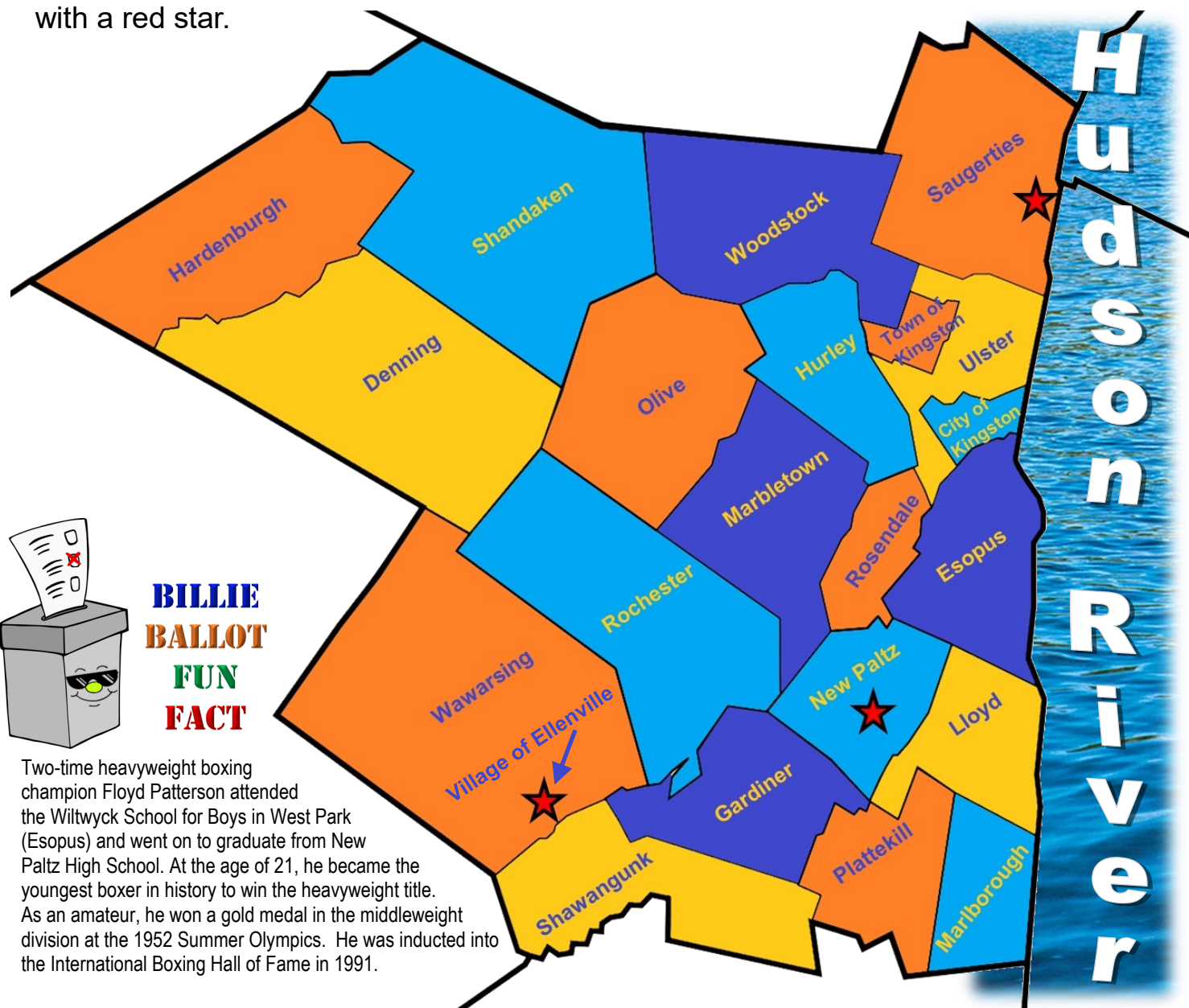
Ulster County's City, Towns & Villages

Ulster County is made up of **1 city**, **20 towns** and **3 villages**.

A **city** is a "large or important municipality in the U.S. governed under a charter granted by the state." The City of Kingston is our county's only city. It is also the County Seat, the home of Ulster County government.

A **town** is "an urban area that has a name, defined boundaries, and local government, and that is generally larger than a village and smaller than a city." Ulster County has 20 towns of varying size and population.

A **village** is "an incorporated minor municipality, usually larger than a hamlet and smaller than a town." There are three villages in our county, two of which share their name with the town where they are located. On the map below, villages are marked with a red star.



Find Ulster County's Towns & Villages!

Use the Word Bank below to find all the town and village names in Ulster County. Words can go in any direction and share letters as they cross over each other. Good luck!

T	V	A	D	K	E	U	K	H	H	R	F	O	F	L	T	D	M	R	R
T	Z	B	R	V	L	R	I	N	G	U	O	M	I	A	T	A	W	L	O
Z	N	A	I	B	R	N	N	A	U	U	R	C	S	L	T	C	F	U	S
T	Z	L	I	D	C	E	G	J	A	G	O	L	H	Y	Z	H	I	I	E
L	O	E	L	Y	D	P	S	F	I	H	N	R	E	E	X	H	Q	X	N
A	I	I	L	Y	P	N	T	E	E	S	E	A	O	Y	S	I	B	F	D
P	X	C	W	L	E	X	O	X	A	X	O	U	W	B	H	T	U	M	A
W	J	C	K	I	I	C	N	U	M	Y	N	Q	Z	A	L	R	E	K	L
E	W	J	P	E	Y	V	G	T	I	O	Q	X	C	L	H	R	H	R	E
N	P	H	A	R	D	E	N	B	U	R	G	H	O	S	T	S	A	L	X
N	L	W	H	S	R	A	Z	E	G	B	K	Y	R	U	L	W	U	M	R
P	L	A	T	T	E	K	I	L	L	U	D	B	E	P	A	C	N	E	G
N	Y	O	I	T	K	O	E	U	K	L	V	K	T	O	O	J	N	N	A
R	N	E	K	A	D	N	A	H	S	E	E	V	S	S	O	I	I	B	O
K	S	W	O	O	D	S	T	O	C	K	F	T	L	E	D	S	U	W	S
F	N	R	V	J	V	X	L	H	D	L	X	F	U	R	R	Q	I	W	I
G	N	I	N	N	E	D	O	A	P	T	Z	C	A	A	N	S	E	O	J
N	W	O	T	E	L	B	R	A	M	K	E	G	W	I	R	N	Y	R	J
S	J	T	L	Y	G	Q	K	C	F	A	N	A	O	U	A	C	O	B	D
O	V	T	E	N	O	H	Z	W	V	W	W	H	J	S	F	N	B	X	J

Word Bank

Denning	Kingston	Plattekill	Ulster
Ellenville	Lloyd	Rochester	Wawarsing
Esopus	Marbletown	Rosendale	Woodstock
Gardiner	Marlborough	Saugerties	
Hardenburgh	New Paltz	Shandaken	
Hurley	Olive	Shawangunk	

New Paltz and Saugerties each have a Village and Town with the same name. Kingston has a Town and a City. Don't worry, we only put them in the puzzle once!

Voting in a City, Town or Village

There are many different jobs to perform in a local government. A lot of these jobs require you to be elected by the people in your city, town or village.

The **City of Kingston** elected officials include the Mayor, nine Common Council Members and two City Judges.

Towns have different elected officials than a city. In most towns, a ballot could have a Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Highway Supervisor, Town Justices, Tax Collector and Town Board Members.

A **Village** usually has a Mayor, Board of Trustees and Village Justices that are elected to their positions.

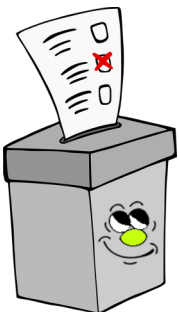


What city, town or village do you live in? _____

Who are some of your elected officials? _____

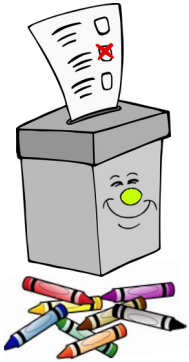
If you could be a local elected official, what job would you like to have?

Why did you pick that job? What would make you good at it?

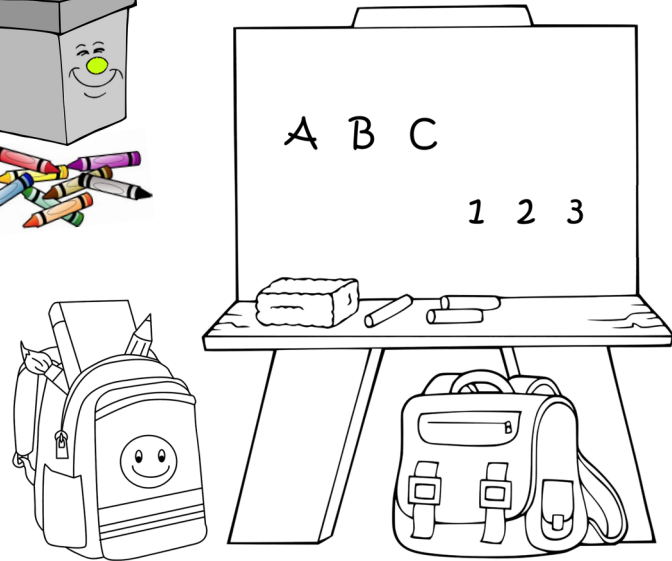


Where Else Do I Vote?

There are many different places and organizations that require voting to elect their leaders. Voting is such a good idea, they do it everywhere!



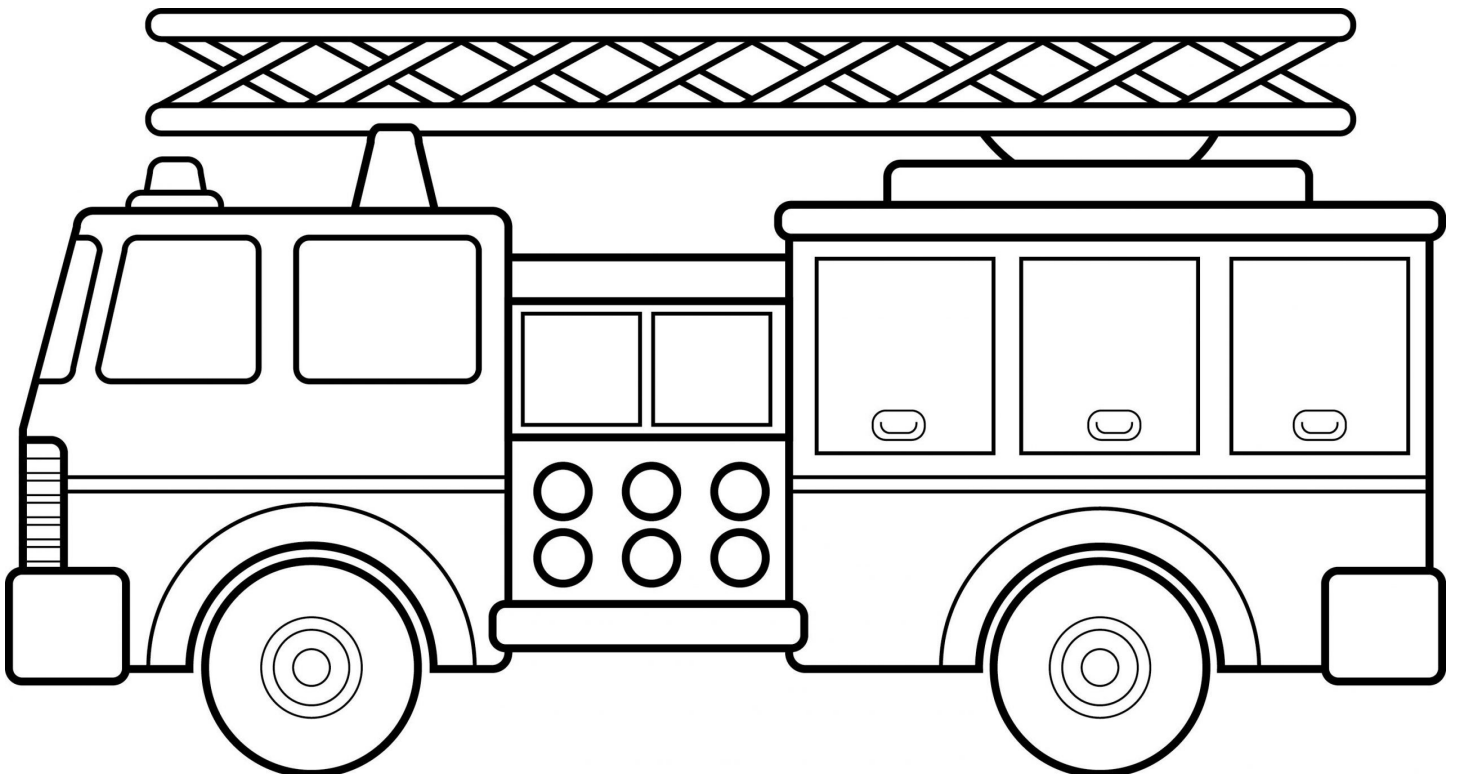
School



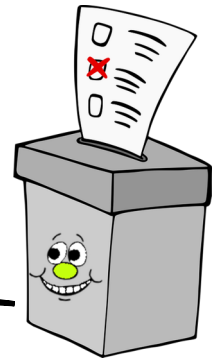
Library



Fire District



Who Do I Vote For?



Every office has its own set of responsibilities. Just like a librarian takes care of books, each office has a specific job to do. Can you match the name of each elected official with what they do?

SHERIFF

Responsible for implementing state laws and overseeing the operation of the state executive branch.

Town Clerk

Chief Executive Officer of a local government who oversees the various local agencies and departments, and communicates with state and federal offices.

School Board Member

Works with the Assembly and Governor to create, amend, or repeal laws.

Mayor

Presides over Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanors, issues warrants for arrest, sentences criminals, and imposes fines.

STATE SENATOR

Enforces laws, runs the jail, protects the courts, helps in emergencies.

GOVERNOR

Serves as a link between schools and the public, hires superintendents, maintains school facilities.

TOWN JUSTICE

Keeps important records like birth certificates and marriage licenses, issues permits, collects taxes, and records local laws.

Who Can Vote?

You can vote in U.S. elections if you are a U.S. citizen, 18 years old on or before Election Day, and are registered to vote!

What does it mean to be a citizen? According to the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, there are two pathways to citizenship...

1. You are a U.S. citizen if you are born in the United States, or born abroad to a United States citizen parent.
2. You can become a U.S. citizen through naturalization, a process in which an eligible legal immigrant applies for citizenship and is accepted.



There are many steps to becoming a U.S. citizen through naturalization. One of the steps is to take a test on U.S. history, government and civic principles. Below are a few sample questions you might see on that test. Can you answer them? Look up the answers if you need to!

1. How many senators does each state have? _____

2. What is one way Americans can serve their country? _____

3. George Washington is famous for many things. Name one. _____

4. Name three national U.S. holidays. _____



After you pass the test, you get to attend a citizenship ceremony! Did you know that we have those ceremonies right here at the Ulster County Courthouse?

Cut out the sample program on the next page. You can hold your own ceremony and take the oath!

Cherish your freedom, protect your rights,
and serve your country well.

Today, the freedom of America and the
rights of an American are yours by choice.
You are now a citizen - take pride in your
new country and enjoy the privileges it offers
you.

Welcome to Citizenship of the United
States of America.

ULSTER COUNTY
KINGSTON, NY 12401
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

- ~ Opening of Court
- ~ Presentation of Colors & Pledge of Allegiance
- ~ "National Anthem"
- ~ Remarks by Taylor Bruck, Acting Ulster County Clerk
- ~ County Clerk's Recommendation to Justice Julian D. Schreibman
- ~ Oath of Allegiance by Taylor Bruck, Acting Ulster County Clerk
- ~ Justice Schreibman's Address
- ~ Honorable Julian D. Schreibman, Justice of the Supreme Court
- ~ Presentation of Certificates of Citizenship
- ~ "America the Beautiful"
- ~ Retirement of Colors
- ~ Court Adjourned

NATURALIZATION COURT
SEPTEMBER 6, 2024
HONORABLE JULIAN D. SCHREIBMAN
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK**

NATURALIZATION TERM

HON. JULIAN D. SCHREIBMAN
JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
ULSTER COUNTY

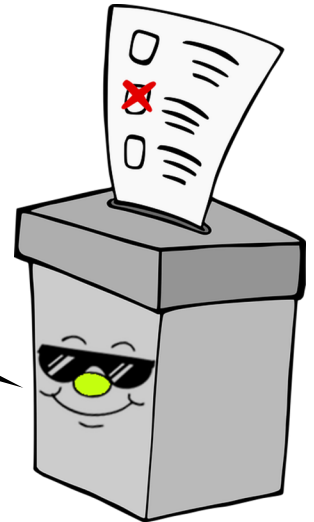
TAYLOR BRUCK
ACTING CLERK OF THE COURT
ULSTER COUNTY CLERK



Back Side of Program

BILLIE BALLOT FUN FACTS

Citizenship is a pretty big deal. You have many different rights and responsibilities. I found some more fun facts about it. Check it out...



In the United States, anyone who is born on U.S. soil is automatically a citizen. Most countries follow a different practice to grant citizenship that is some combination of both birthplace and/or inherited nationality.



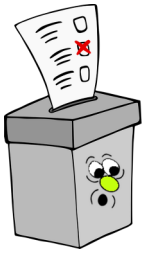
Mandatory duties of citizenship do not include voting! As a citizen you are required to obey the law, pay taxes, serve on a jury when called, and register for the military draft (men). Voting is included in your rights, but it is not required.

The concept of citizenship first arose in towns and city-states of ancient Greece, where it generally applied to property owners. A citizen in a Greek city-state was entitled to vote and was liable to taxation and military service.

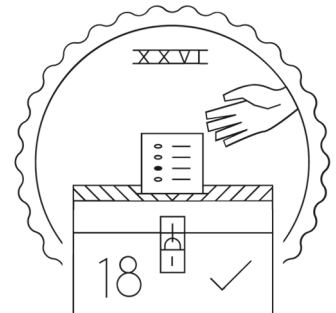
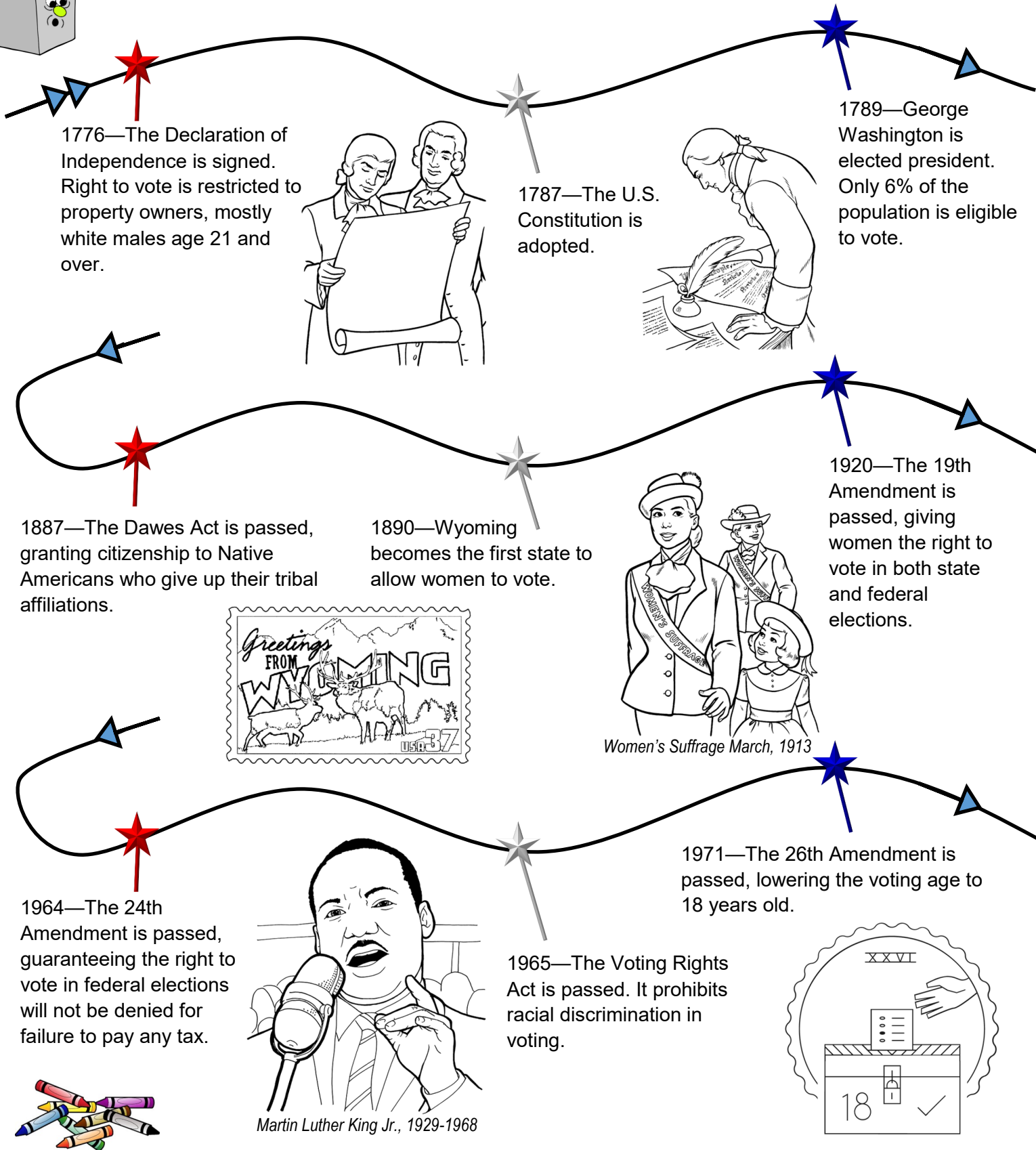


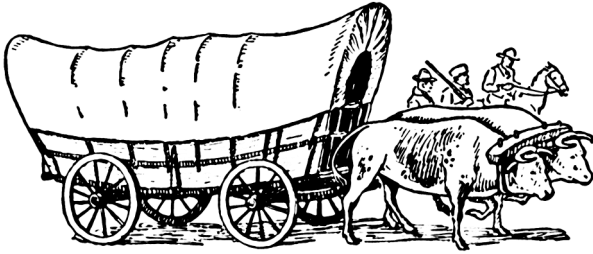
Ulster County holds Naturalization ceremonies several times each year at the Ulster County Courthouse. The program on the previous page tells you all about the ceremony, but do you know what happens after? The new citizens are celebrated by their family, friends and local officials while sharing a congratulatory cake!

Was Everyone Always Allowed to Vote?



Voting laws, like many laws, were changed and amended over the years. Follow the timeline and color in these big changes to the voting laws in the United States.





Frederick Douglass, 1817-1895

1856—Voting is expanded to include all white men, regardless of land ownership.

1868—The 14th Amendment is passed granting citizenship to former slaves.

1870—The 15th Amendment is passed, stating that the right to vote cannot be denied based on race.

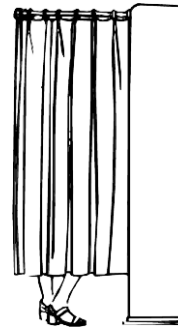


Sojourner Truth, 1797-1883

1924—The Indian Citizenship Act grants citizenship to all Native Americans.

1952—The McCarran-Walter Act is passed, granting all people of Asian ancestry the right to become citizens.

1961—The 23rd Amendment is passed, giving the citizens of Washington D.C. the right to vote for U.S. president.



1975—Amendments to the Voting Rights Act are passed requiring voting materials to be printed in multiple languages.


1986—The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act is passed granting United States Military and Uniformed Services, Merchant Marine, and other citizens living on bases, abroad, or aboard ship the right to vote in federal elections by absentee ballot.

1993—The National Voter Registration Act is passed, making registration available at the DMV and other public buildings.



Chief Petty Officer U.S. Navy

(rev. 03/19)



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Các Câu Hỏi về Công Dân (Lịch Sử và Tổ Chức Công Quyền) cho Thử Nghiệm Nhập Tịch

100 câu hỏi về công dân (Lịch Sử và Tổ Chức Công Quyền) cũng các giúp đỡ cho thử nghiệm nhập tịch ghi dưới đây. Thử nghiệm công dân được hỏi miệng và giám khảo của Cơ Quan Quốc Tịch Và Di Trú (USCIS) sẽ hỏi ứng viên nhập tịch từ 10 trong số 100 câu. Ứng viên phải trả lời đúng 6 trên 10 câu hỏi để được cấp phần nhập tịch này.

Trong bài thử nghiệm nhập tịch, một vài câu cần tìm hiểu để có các câu giải đáp cấp nhập tịch trả lời các câu hỏi này cho đúng với tên của họ.

Naturalization Practice Tests in Vietnamese & Arabic

(rev. 02/19)



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

أسئلة حول الترتيب المدنية (التاريخ والحكومة) لاختبار التجنس

فيما يلي 100 سؤال وجواب حول الترتيب المدنية (التاريخ والحكومة) لاختبار التجنس. إن اختبار الترتيب المدنية شفهي وسوف يسأل مسؤول دائرة خدمات الجنسية والهجرة الأمريكية مقدم الطلب نحو 10 أسئلة من بين 100 سؤال العامة بالترتيب المدنية ويجب على مقدم الطلب أن يجيب إجابة صحيحة على 6 من بين 10 أسئلة على الأقل كي ينجح في الحصول على الجنسية بالترتيب المدنية من اختبار التجنس.

في اختبار الجنسية، قد تعبر بعض الإجابات بسبب الاختلافات أو التفسيرات عليك وقت تدرس الاختبار، أن تتأكد من أنك تعرف أحدث الإجابات الرغصة من هذه الأسئلة. أجب من هذه الأسئلة بذكر المسؤول الذي يتعامل بالنسب العام وقت المناقشة العامة بأهلك مع دائرة خدمات الجنسية والهجرة الأمريكية. إن بقل مسؤول دائرة خدمات الجنسية والهجرة الأمريكية إجابة خاطئة.

رفع إيراد دائرة خدمات الجنسية والهجرة الأمريكية أنه قد تكون هناك إجابات صحيحة إضافية لـ 100 سؤال العامة بالترتيب المدنية. فإنها تتنوع المتعلمين على الإجابة على أسئلة الترتيب المدنية باستخدام الإجابات السطحة.

#UlsterCountyVotes

The Ulster County Board of Elections holds a yearly contest inviting students throughout the county to design and submit an “I Voted” sticker. The winning designs, chosen by the Board Commissioners and the public, are then used to create a 2-inch sticker that is distributed at polling sites on Election Day in November. Pictured below are some of the many “I Voted” submissions from 2021.



Julia McClosky



Mae Rogers



Siena Beach



Brooke Myers



Aaliyah Ghafoor



Isabella Finch



Jasmin, Highland High School



Alex O'Neill

“I Voted” Sticker Spotlight

In 2022, an Ulster County "I Voted" sticker gained viral acclaim for its eye-catching design featuring a vibrant spider created by student Hudson Rowan. The whimsical and colorful sticker quickly became a social media sensation, encouraging civic engagement and garnering attention for its unique take on celebrating voter participation.

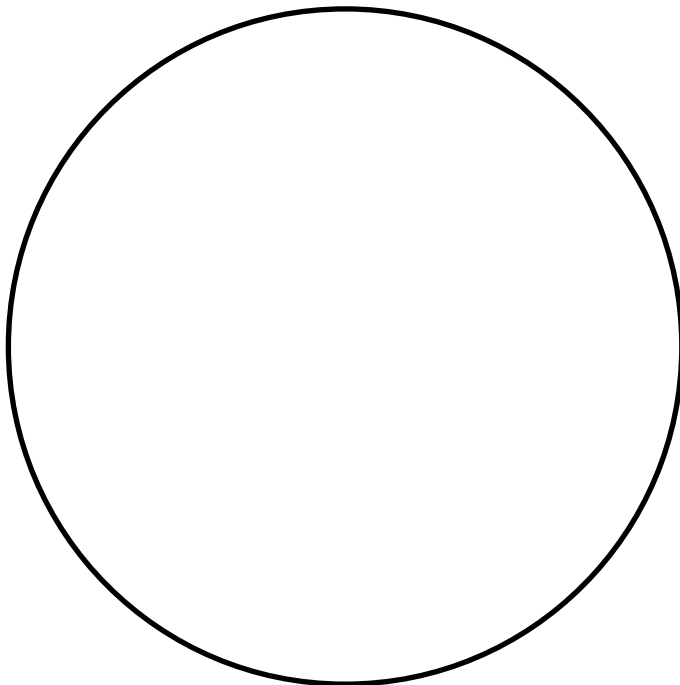
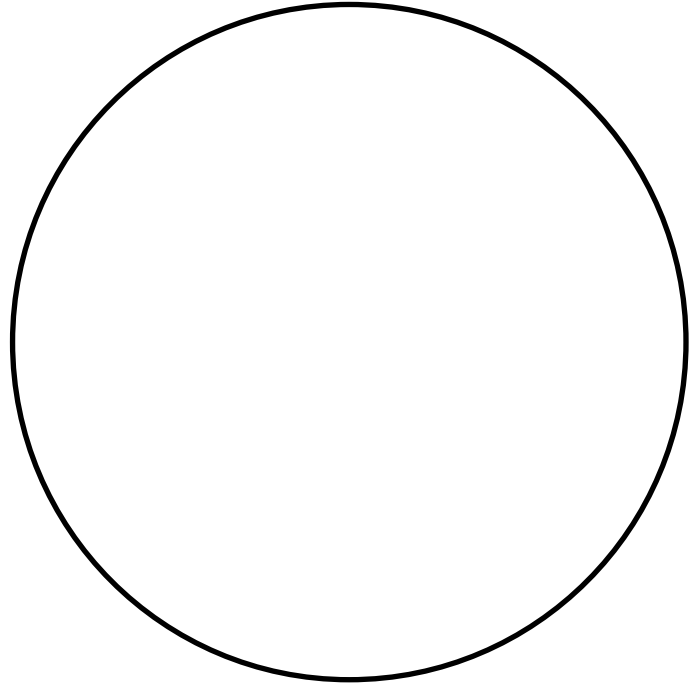
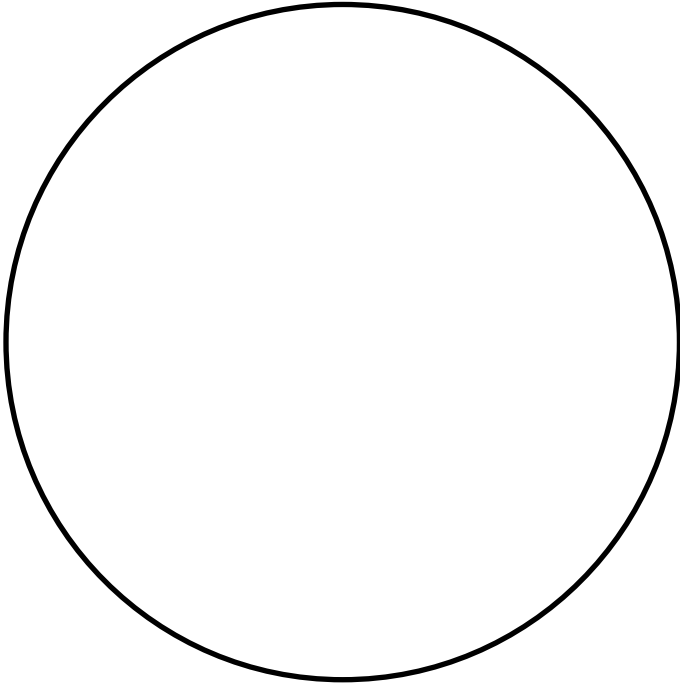


Hudson Rowan’s design (left) featured bright colors like magenta, teal, purple and red. Using your favorite colors, create your own version of this iconic “I Voted” sticker:

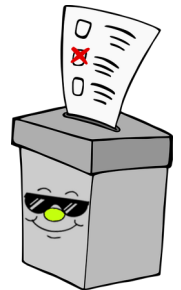


Design Your “I Voted” Stickers

Use your imagination and all the knowledge you have gained throughout this book to design your own “I Voted” sticker. What does voting mean to you?



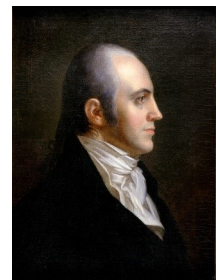
BILLIE BALLOT **FUN FACT**



Painter John Vanderlyn, born in Kingston in 1775, was well known as a portrait artist. He was a protégé of Aaron Burr, who served as a lawyer in many Ulster County court cases. Vanderlyn even lived with the family when Burr was Vice President. While Vanderlyn went on to paint many historical figures, his mentor had a more difficult future. Burr's legacy is defined by his infamous personal conflict with Alexander Hamilton that ended in Burr killing Hamilton in a duel in 1804.



Self Portrait
by John Vanderlyn, 1800



Aaron Burr
by John Vanderlyn, 1802

Glossary



Psst...there are some hard words in this packet! I didn't know them all, so I looked them up for us. Did I miss any? Maybe you could look them up for me.

Abolitionist

A person who advocated or supported doing away with or putting an end to slavery in the U.S. (especially prior to the Civil War).

Abroad

Beyond the boundaries of one's country : in or to a foreign country.

Allegiance

The loyalty of citizens to their government.

Amendment

A change or addition designed to improve a text, piece of legislation, etc.

Charter

A document outlining the conditions under which a corporation, colony, city, or other corporate body is organized, and defining its rights and privileges.

Citizenship

A member of a community; gained by meeting the legal requirements of a national, state, or local government.

Colonists

Inhabitants of the 13 British colonies that became the United States of America.

Commissioner

A representative granted with the authority or power to perform certain acts or duties

Congress

The act or action of coming together and meeting; the supreme legislative body of a nation and especially of a republic.

Constitution

A body of the most important principles or established rules for conduct.

Convention

A meeting or formal assembly, as of representatives or delegates, for discussion of and action on particular matters of common concern.

Democracy

A system of government by the whole population or all eligible members (citizens) of a state or nation, typically through elected representatives.

DMV

Department of Motor Vehicles is a state-level government agency that administers vehicle registration and driver licensing.

Duke

A British nobleman holding the highest hereditary title outside the royal family, ranking immediately below a prince and above a marquis.

Government

The political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states.

Great Seal

A seal, or stamped emblem, used on official state documents of the highest importance.

Hamlet

A small village.

Heritage

Something that is handed down from the past, like a tradition.

Icon

A person or thing regarded as a representative symbol.

Incorporated

Formed or constituted as a legal city, town, village, etc., that operates under a corporate charter granted by the state.

Infamous

Well known for something bad; notorious.

Jurisdiction

The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

Legislative

Having the power to make laws.

Legislature

A body of persons, usually elected, who are empowered to make, change, or repeal the laws.

Liberty

The quality or state of being free; the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges.

Mandate

An official order to do something.

Military Draft

Mandatory enlistment of people to military service.

Municipality

A city, town, or other district that usually its own local government.

Nation (sometimes interchanged with state)

A large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, language, or inhabiting a particular country or territory.

Naturalization

The process by which a foreign citizen becomes a citizen of a new country.

Patriotic

Having or expressing love and devotion for one's country.

Proposition

A legislative proposal.

Protégé

A person who is guided and supported by an older and more experienced or influential person.

Referendum

An official vote on a specific issue. It's often part of a larger election.

Representative

A person chosen or appointed to act or speak for others.

Republic

A state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, which has an elected or nominated president rather than a monarch (King or Queen).

Rescind

To revoke, cancel, or repeal (a law, order, or agreement).

Reservoir

A natural or artificial place where water is collected and stored for use, especially water for supplying a community, irrigating land, furnishing power, etc.

Resolution

Something settled or resolved; the outcome of decision making, usually agreed to by a vote.

Sail Loft

A large loft or room where sails are cut out and made.

Sovereignty

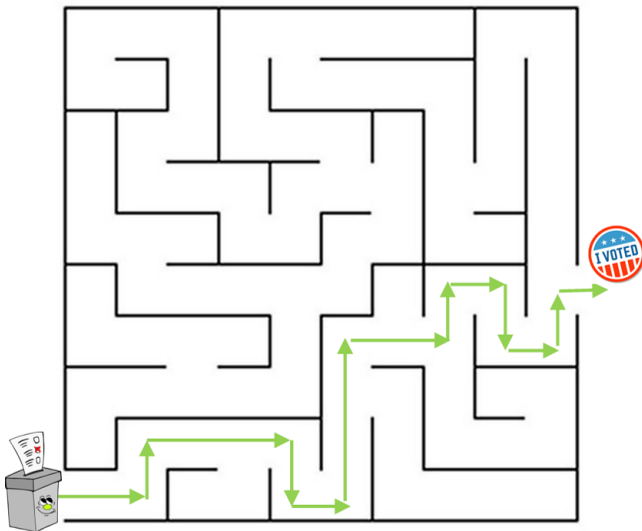
Supreme and independent power or authority in government as possessed or claimed by a state or community.

U.S. Territory

A piece of land belonging to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Activity Solutions

Help Billie Find the Way to Vote!



Check it out!! They gave us the answers to all the activities. Let's check and see how we did...



True or False

- False**—They are equal but manage different things.
- False**—Individual rights were later outlined in the Bill of Rights and other Amendments.
- True**—While the independent republic of San Marino's constitution is older, established in 1600, it is a set of documents, not one comprehensive document.
- False**—It was adopted on September 17, 1787.
- True**—The Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches.

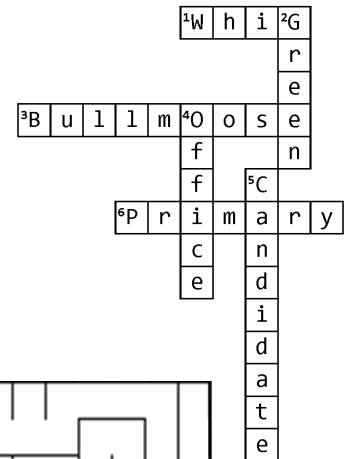
Symbols of Our Country

- F New York State Flag
- C Great Seal of the U.S.
- D Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance
- A American Flag
- B Icons of Political Parties
- G Liberty Bell
- E Statue of Liberty

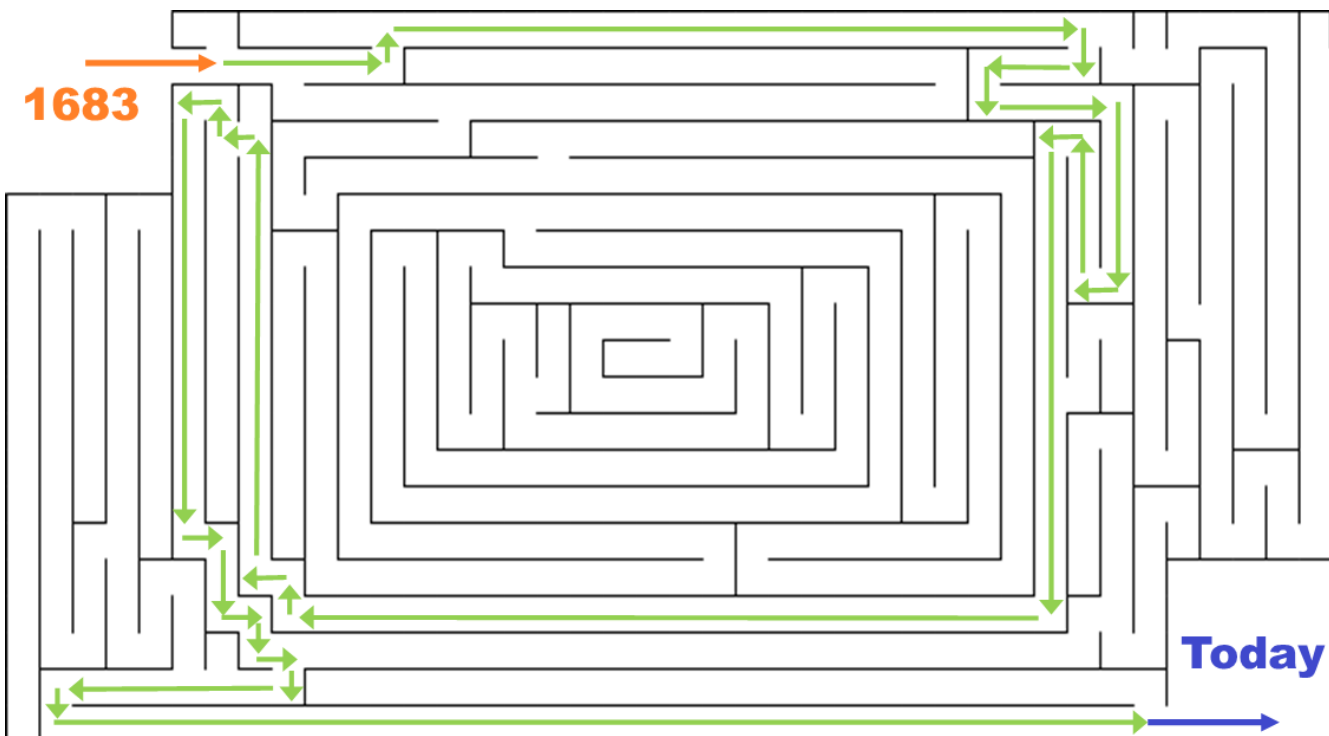
Unscramble the Hudson Valley Cities & Towns

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| Troy | Hudson |
| Yonkers | Kingston |
| Catskill | Albany |
| Beacon | Newburgh |
| Saugerties | Poughkeepsie |

Crossword Puzzle



Help our government move from its formation to today!



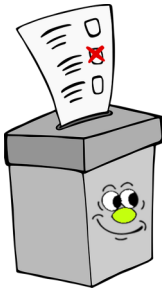
Ulster County Seals—Can You Spot the Differences

The men are wearing different clothing; the 1974 seal has mountains in it and a date; the man in the 1974 seal has a sword; the 1800's seal has a jagged edge and the 1974 seal has a double line around the edge.

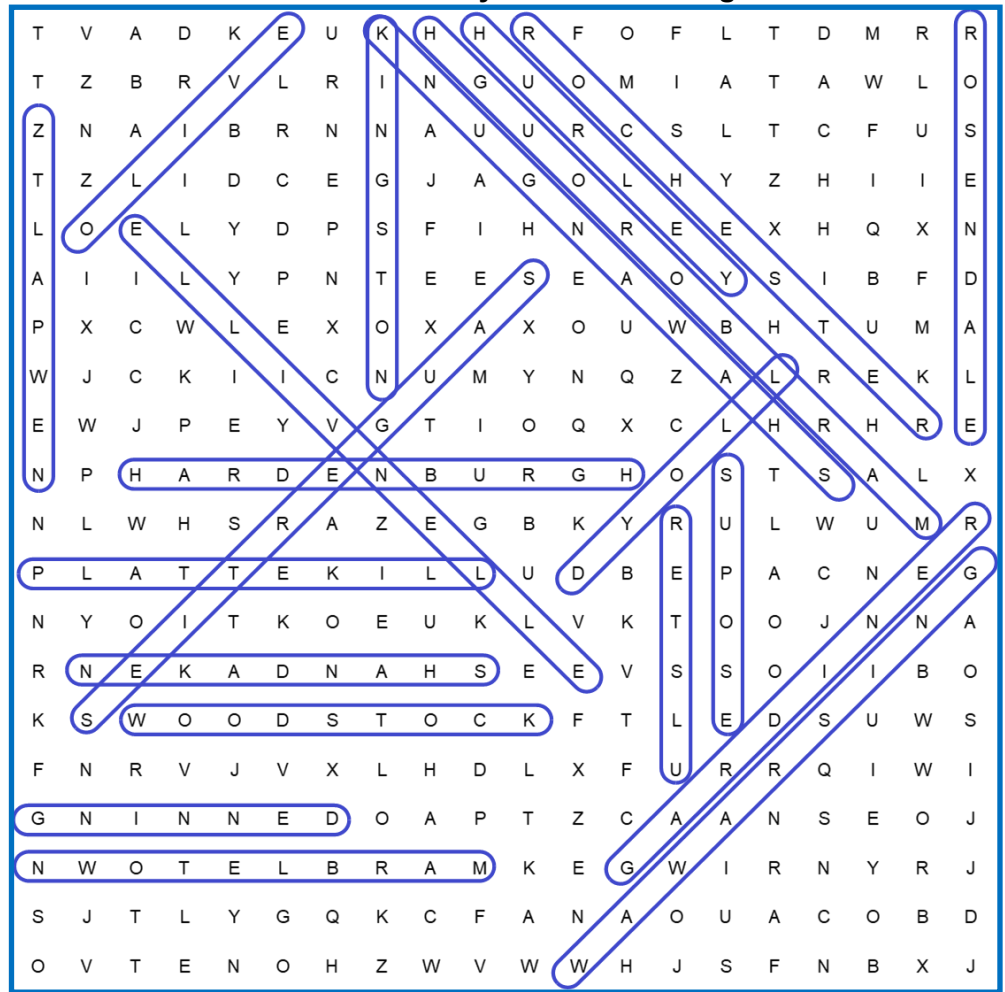
Bonus Questions!

Why is 1683 an important year for Ulster County?
It is the year Ulster County was formed.

How many years does a "bicentennial" celebrate?
200 years.



Find Ulster County's Towns & Villages!

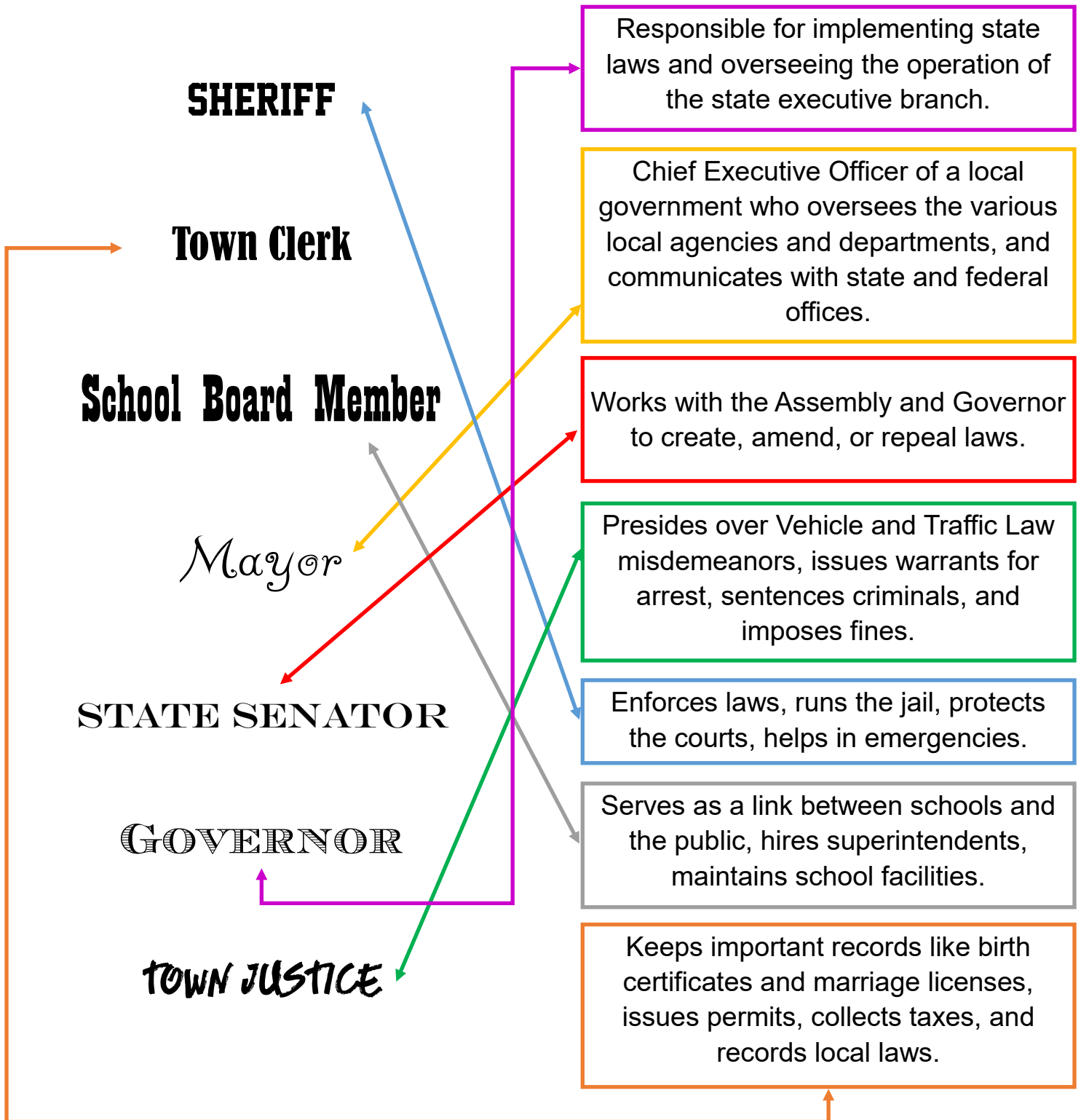


Citizenship Test

The information on the "Who Can Vote?" page as well as the sample questions are from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (uscis.gov). The questions are directly copied from the 2020 Civics Test.

- How many senators does each state have?
 - Two (2)
- What is one way Americans can serve their country?
 - Vote
 - Pay taxes
 - Obey the law
 - Serve in the military
 - Run for office
 - Work for local, state, or federal government
- George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.
 - "Father of Our Country"
 - First President of the United States
 - General of the Continental Army
 - President of the Constitutional Convention
- Name three national U.S. holidays.
 - New Year's Day
 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 - Presidents Day (Washington's Birthday)
 - Memorial Day
 - Independence Day
 - Labor Day
 - Columbus Day
 - Veterans Day
 - Thanksgiving Day
 - Christmas Day

Office Responsibility Matching





Thanks for playing along with me on our adventure through National, State and Local elections and government. Have a question?? Here's how you can contact us...

Ulster County Board of Elections

79 Hurley Ave., Suite 112, Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 334-5470
elections.ulstercountyny.gov
elections@co.ulster.ny.us

Ulster County Clerk's Office

Main Office: 244 Fair Street, 2nd Floor, Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 340-3040
clerk.ulstercountyny.gov
countyclerk@co.ulster.ny.us

Records Center & Archives: 300 Foxhall Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 340-3415
clerk.ulstercountyny.gov/archives
archives@co.ulster.ny.us

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There are more activity packets and educational publications on the County Clerk's website, listed above. You can learn all about Archives, Maps, Genealogy, local Native American history, early Dutch settlers, the Matthewis Persen House Museum and more!

