

ACTIVITY BOOK

GRADES K-5

What's Happening in Washington Courts?





Welcome to Court

Judges know going to court can be scary or unfamiliar for anyone — especially young people. Yet young people go to court every day, for all sorts of reasons.

We want to make the experience of going to court easier for kids. This book will tell you what happens in court: who works there, what the rules are, and how you might be part of a case. Remember that you always can ask questions if you are in court and you feel afraid or confused.

I hope you enjoy this book, learn from it, and have fun with it. You can keep this book to help you remember what you want to know about going to court.

Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst
Supreme Court of Washington

About this Book

What's Happening in Washington Courts? is intended for youth who are in court for any reason — whether they are witnesses, visitors to the courthouse, or involved in a case. It aims to introduce youth to the court processes in which they are or could be involved, the people who work in the judicial system, and the vocabulary that may foster conversations between youth and adults about the court system and a game book that gives youth who are in court something to do while they wait. This book is not intended to give or substitute for legal advice.

Specific pamphlets have been created for youth in grades K–5 and 6–12. This activity book is intended for grades K–5. Depending on their age, ability, and interest, youth may look at and color the pictures, read the text, play games, or do the activities.

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How Did You Get to Court?

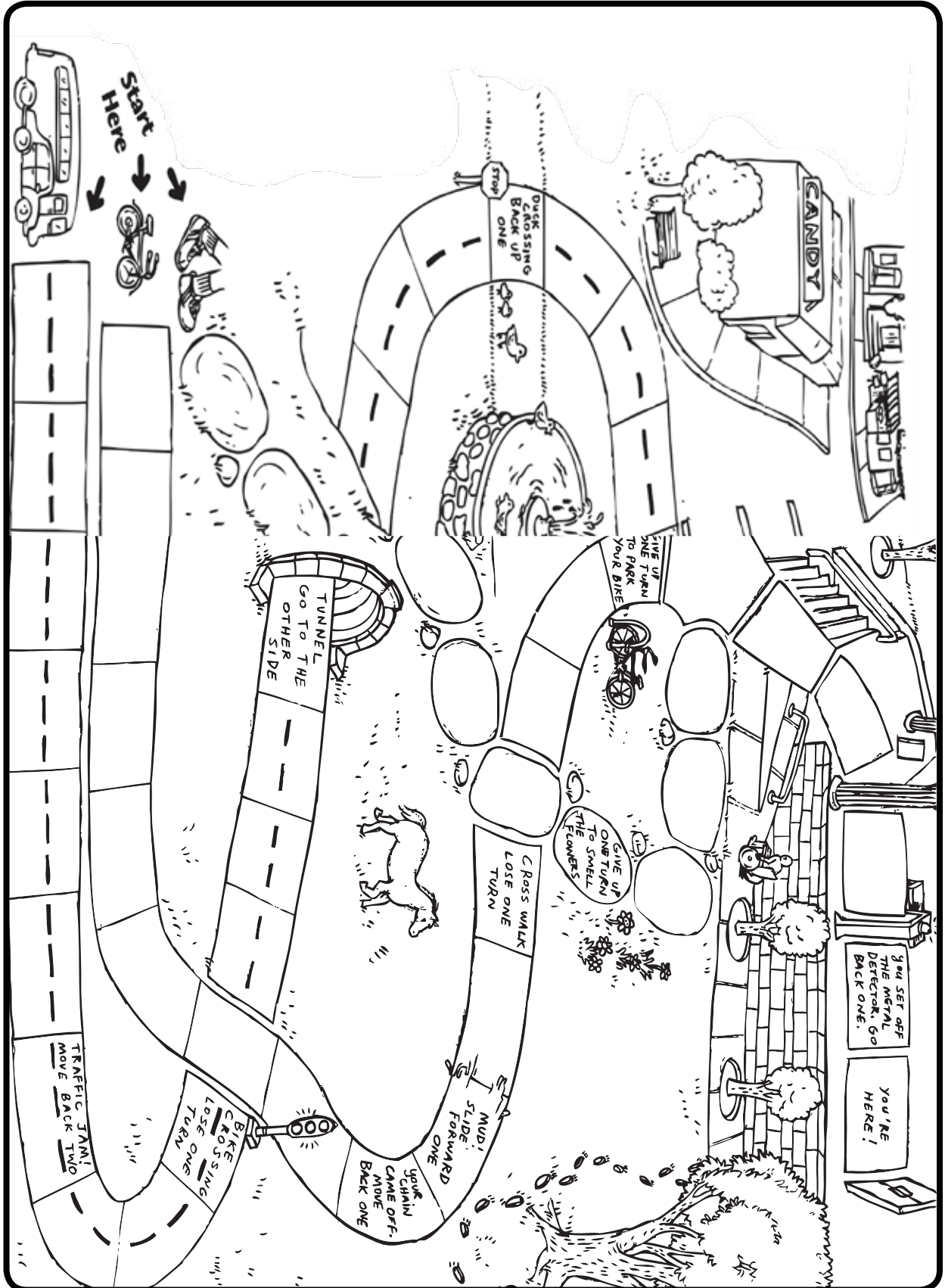
Using the game board on page 7, follow the path that has a picture of how you got to the courthouse. 1-4 players can play. Use 3 coins or other small objects as game pieces. The first player to get to the courthouse wins the game.

Game Instructions

- Drop 3 coins on a flat surface.
- Count the number of heads and move forward that number.
 - If there are 1 head and 2 tails, move forward 1 space.
 - If there are 2 heads and 1 tail, move forward 2 spaces.
 - If there are 3 heads and no tails, move forward 3 spaces.
 - If there are no heads and 3 tails, do not move.
- When you land on a space, follow the instructions on that space.
- The first player to get to the courthouse wins.
- At the end of the game, make sure everyone gets their game pieces back.

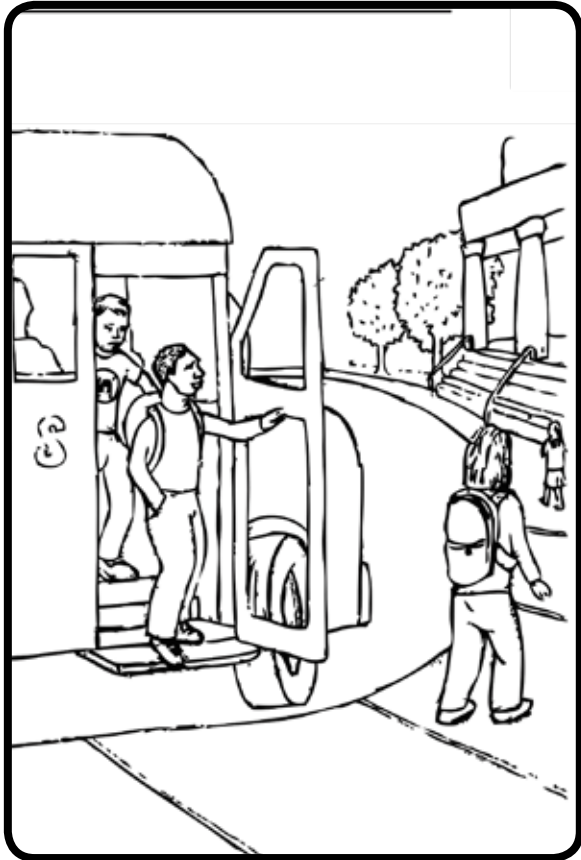
Activity

- Circle all the objects that you saw on your way to court today. If you saw a horse, then circle the horse. Draw a picture of anything you saw that isn't pictured on the game board.



Why Are You At Court?

People come to court for many different reasons. Check the box that best explains why you are at court today, then color the pictures.



I'm at court today on a field trip.



I'm at court today to be adopted.



I'm at court today because I am a part of a case or I am here as a witness to tell what I have seen or heard.



I don't know why I'm at court today.

Who Will You Meet in Court?

Many people work in a court. Everyone has a job to do.

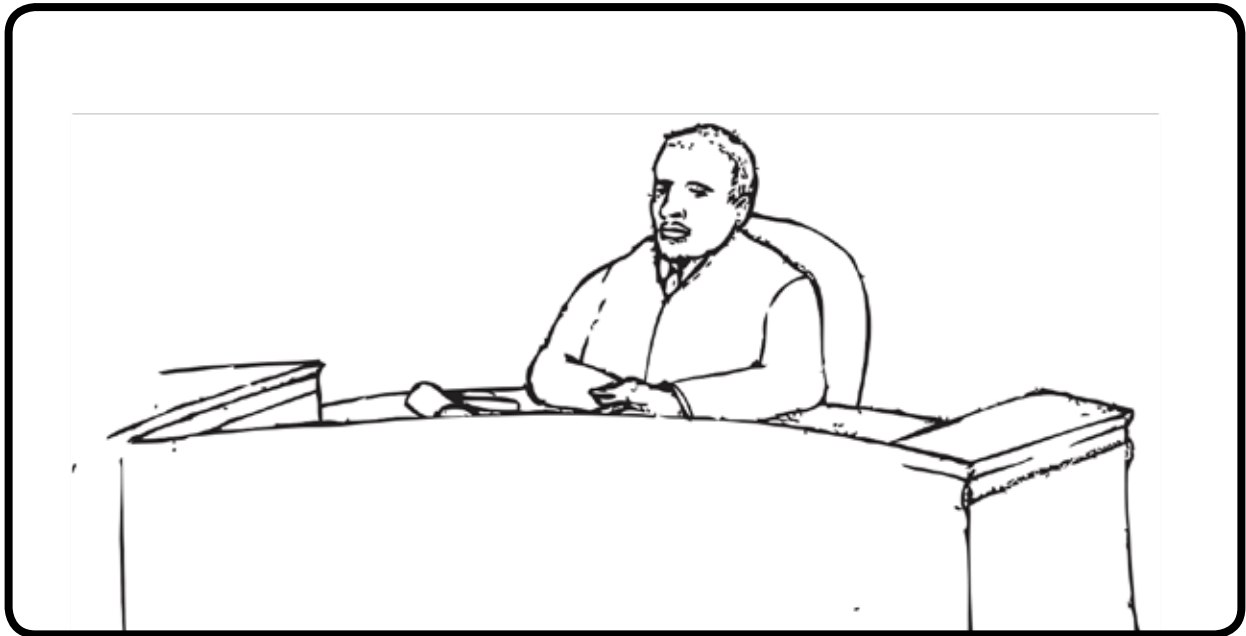
Judge

First, there is the **judge**. In many courts, the judge will be wearing a black robe. The judge usually sits at the front of the courtroom at a very large, raised desk, called a bench. The judge's name is often on a sign near the bench.

The judge does many things. First, the judge is like a referee, or an umpire at a ball game.

The judge makes sure that everyone is treated fairly.

Sometimes the judge is also the person who makes the decision about the problem (called a case) that the people came to court to solve. For example, if two people come to court because they disagree about money, the judge might be the person who finally decides who gets the money.





Juror

Other times, a group of people, instead of the judge, decides who wins the argument. These people are called **jurors**. Jurors are people who come to court to listen to each side of a disagreement. Then the jurors decide how the disagreement will be settled. A group of jurors is called a jury.

Bailiff

Some courts have uniformed **bailiffs**. You probably can spot the bailiff very easily. The bailiff is the person who tells everyone to stand up by saying, "All rise" when the judge comes in. The bailiff makes sure the people who go to court follow the rules.





Lawyer

When people go to court, they often have **lawyers**. Lawyers also are called attorneys. Lawyers give advice to people about their disagreements in court. It is the lawyer's job to talk to the judge and jurors for the people who come to court.

When a lawyer talks for someone who has come to court, it means that the lawyer "represents" the person. Each lawyer represents only one person in court. So, if many people are involved in a disagreement, there might be more than one lawyer in court. All kinds of people have lawyers, including young people! Lawyers usually sit next to the person they represent in the court.

Interpreter

Courts also have **interpreters** for people who don't speak or understand English. The interpreter's job is to tell the person in their own language what is said in court and tell the court what the person is saying.

Court Reporter

In many courts there is a **court reporter**. The court reporter is the person who writes down everything that everybody says in court.

Wow! Can you imagine writing down all the words people say?

The court reporter usually sits near the judge and types on a small machine. Even though court reporters type very fast, everyone in court must speak slowly and clearly so the court reporter can hear what they say.

Clerk

All courts have **clerks** as well. A court clerk keeps all the papers about the cases in the court and organizes them. The clerk keeps track of the names of the lawyers, the people who come to court to testify and anybody else who was a part of the case.



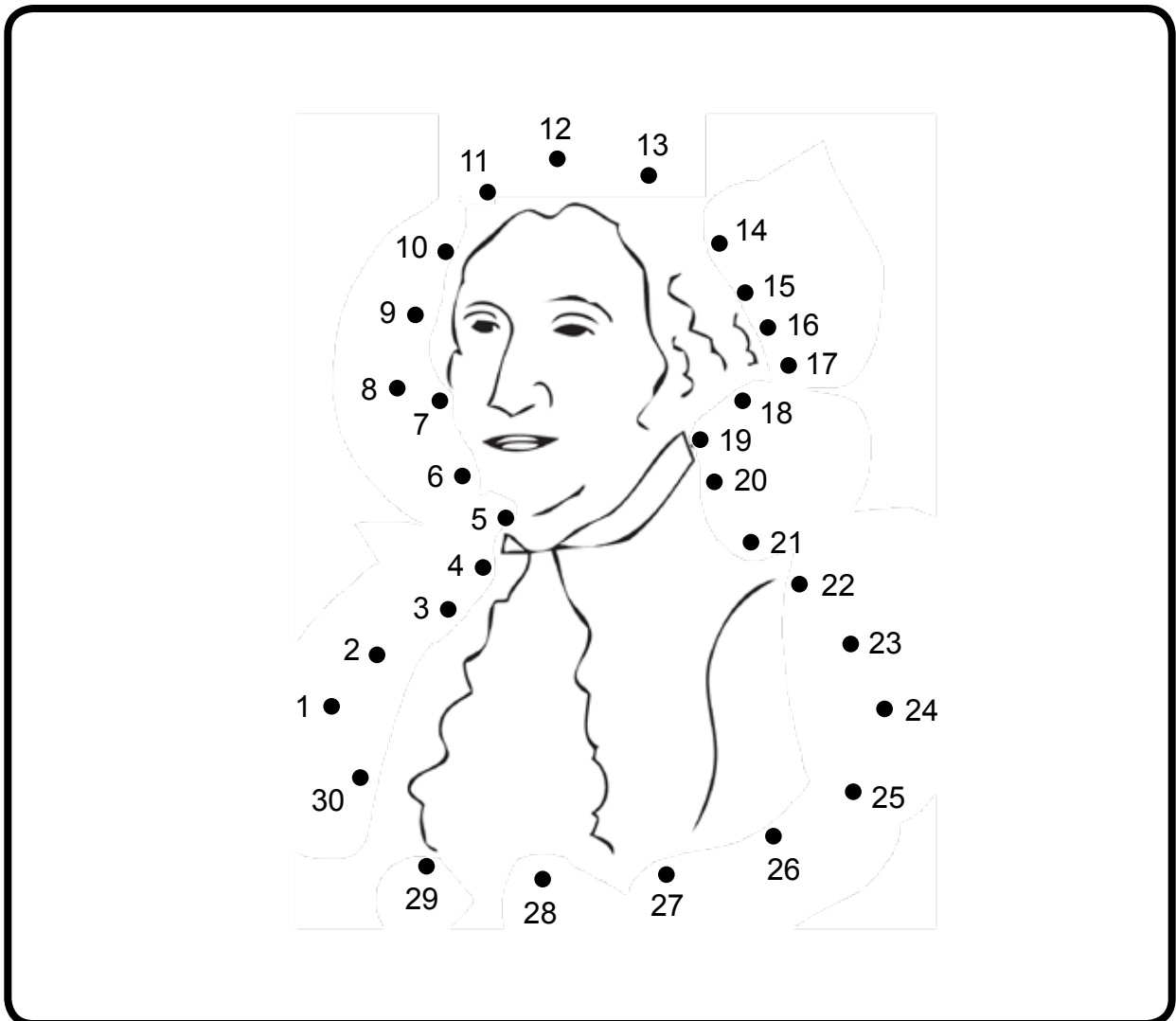
Witness

Witnesses are people who come to court to tell what they have seen or heard. For example if someone is accused of stealing something, a witness might come to court to say what they saw happen. When witnesses come to court, they have to raise their hand and make a special promise, called an oath, to tell the truth. They take a special seat and the lawyers ask them questions. Cases that last a long time may have lots of witnesses.



Are You A Witness?

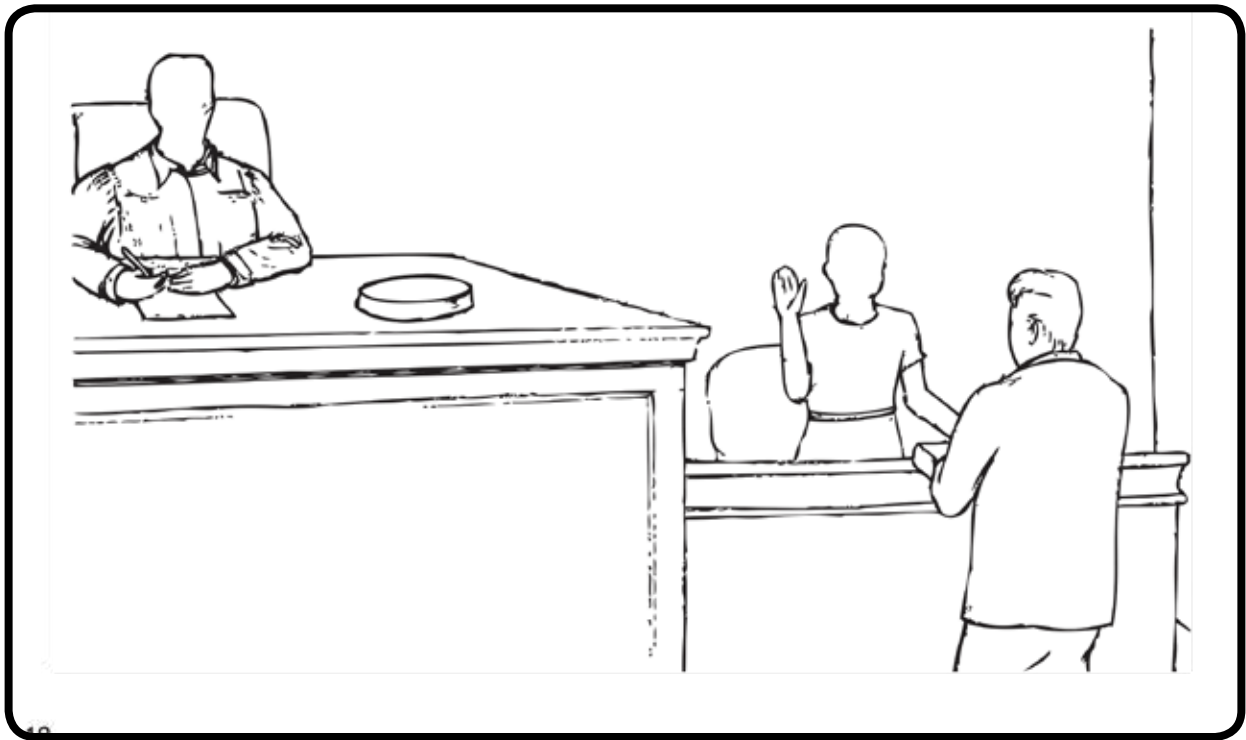
If you are called as a witness, the lawyers and sometimes the judge will ask you questions. Of course, it is very important to tell the truth when you answer questions in court. You even make a special promise, called an oath, to tell the truth before you answer questions. It is also important to answer just the questions that you understand. If you don't understand a question, it is OK to say so and have the question explained to you. If you are afraid to answer questions in the courtroom, be sure to tell the lawyer, if you have one, or the judge. They will do everything they can to make you feel more comfortable.



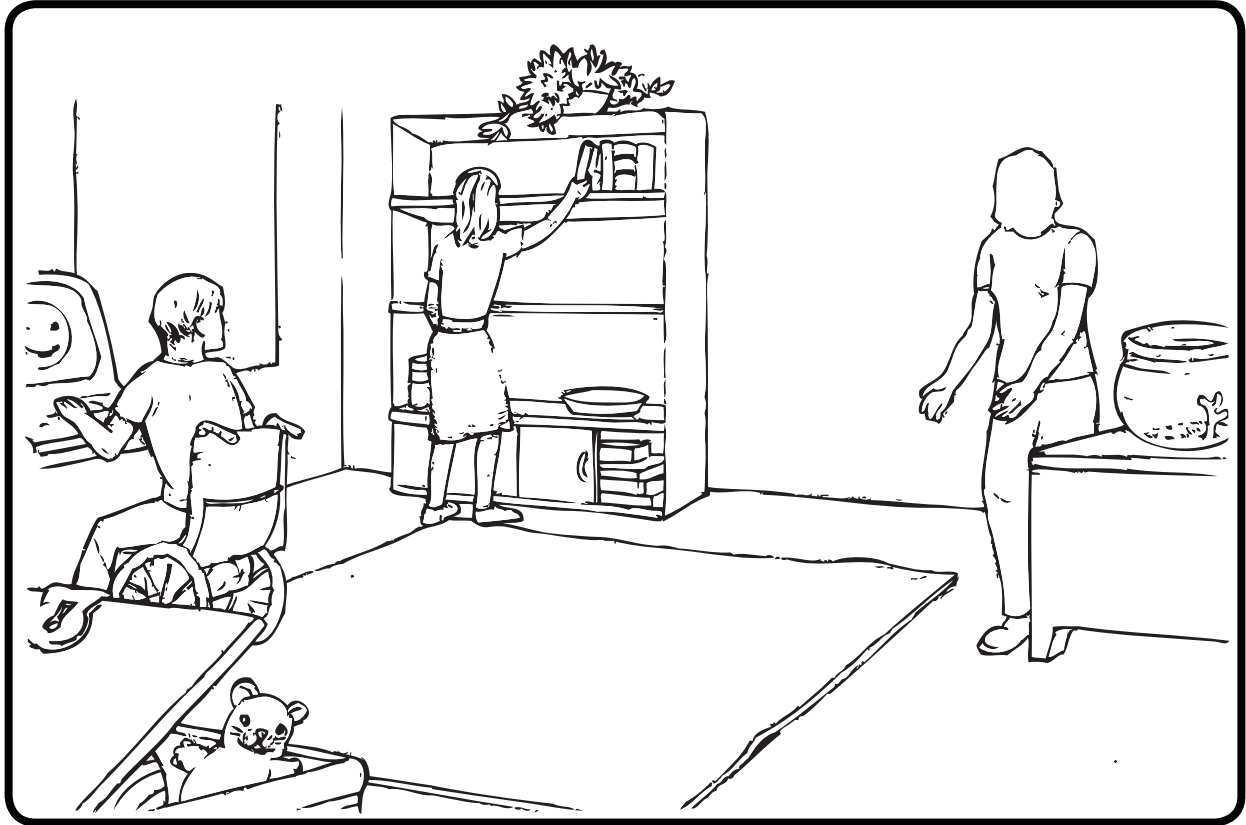
What Do Rooms at the Courthouse Look Like to You?

Rooms at the courthouse can look different for each person attending court. Decorate each scene and fill in faces based on what you saw and experienced during your visit.

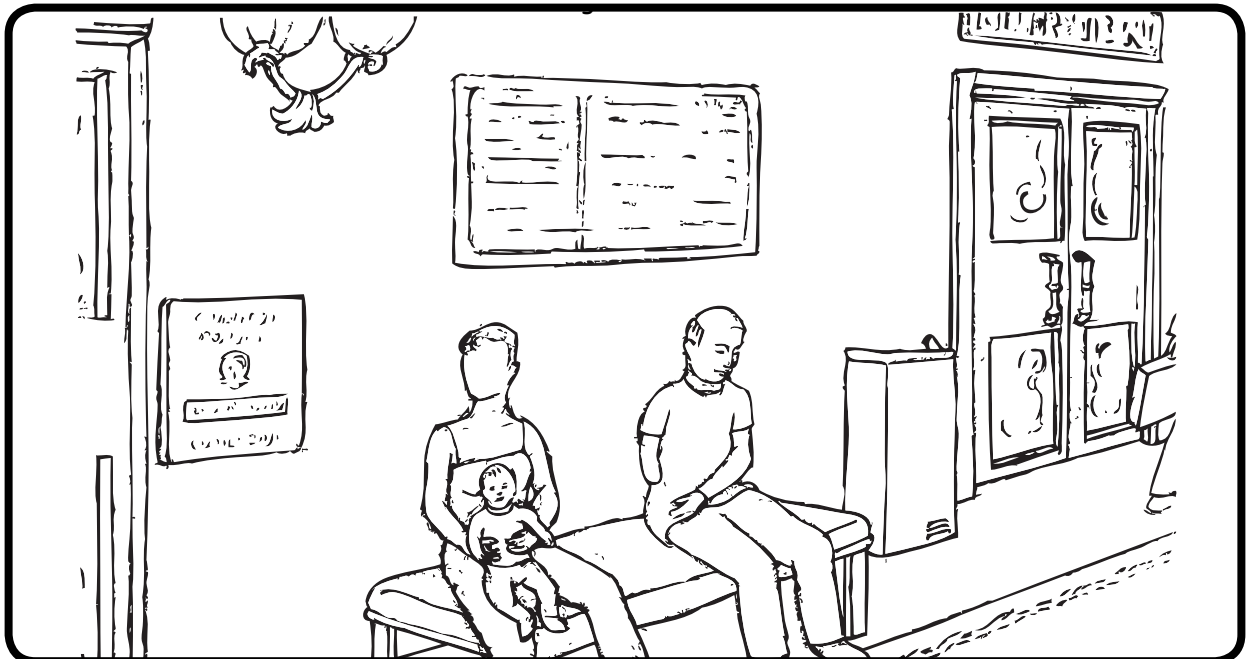
A judge listens to a witness being sworn in the courtroom.



A child waits in a special waiting room in the courthouse.



A witness waits their turn outside the courtroom.



How Should I Act in Court?

- Be on time.
- Dress neatly.
- Don't go in alone. Make sure there is an adult with you.
- Show respect to the people that are there.
- Don't eat or drink in court.
- Don't chew gum.
- Don't listen to music in court.
- Turn off your cell phone.
- There may be other people in court who have cases before you. You will have to wait and be quiet.
- You can read a book or play quietly with this book while you wait.
- When it is your turn, call the judge "Your Honor." This is what people call the judge to show respect.
- Don't speak unless the judge or a lawyer asks you to.
- If you don't understand something, say that you don't understand. Someone will explain it again for you.

What Time Is It?

Going to court can take a lot of time. Think back on your day and fill in the time next to the activity.



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What time did you wake up?



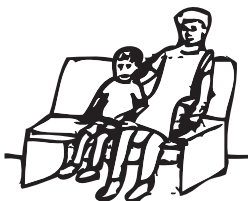
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What time did you leave your house?



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What time did you get to court?



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What time is it now?

What Is Adoption?

People adopt children because they love children and want to bring a child into their family. Foster parents, the birth parents' family, or anyone else who wants to include a child in their family can adopt children.

Sometimes birth-parents are not able to raise their child. For example, the parents may be too young. They may not be able to take care of the child so the child can be happy and healthy. Sometimes the birth-parents have died.

In these cases, children may be adopted. It is the way a child legally becomes part of a new family. The judge decides if it is best for the child to be adopted. Before the judge makes this decision, a social worker will talk with the child. The social worker also meets the potential new parents and visits the new home. After adoption a child is a member of a new family. A new family can include brothers and sisters, grandparents, and aunts and uncles.

Children can be adopted at any age. Some are babies. Others are teenagers. Even adults can be adopted. Children can be adopted into a family of a different race or religion. Children with special abilities can be adopted. Children can be adopted from other states or countries.

What Do They Do?

Now that you've read about the people you may meet in court, draw a line to connect the name of the person with the job they do. (Answers are on page 24.)

Lawyers or Attorneys

These people come to court to tell the truth and talk about what they have seen or heard.

Judge

This person types everything that is said in court into a machine.

Bailiff

This person organizes all the papers in the court files and keeps track of the judge's decisions.

Jurors

This individual says in the person's own language what is said in court.

Clerk

This person's job is to make decisions and make sure that everyone is treated fairly in court.

Witnesses

These people help by giving advice and talking in court for the people who have disagreements.

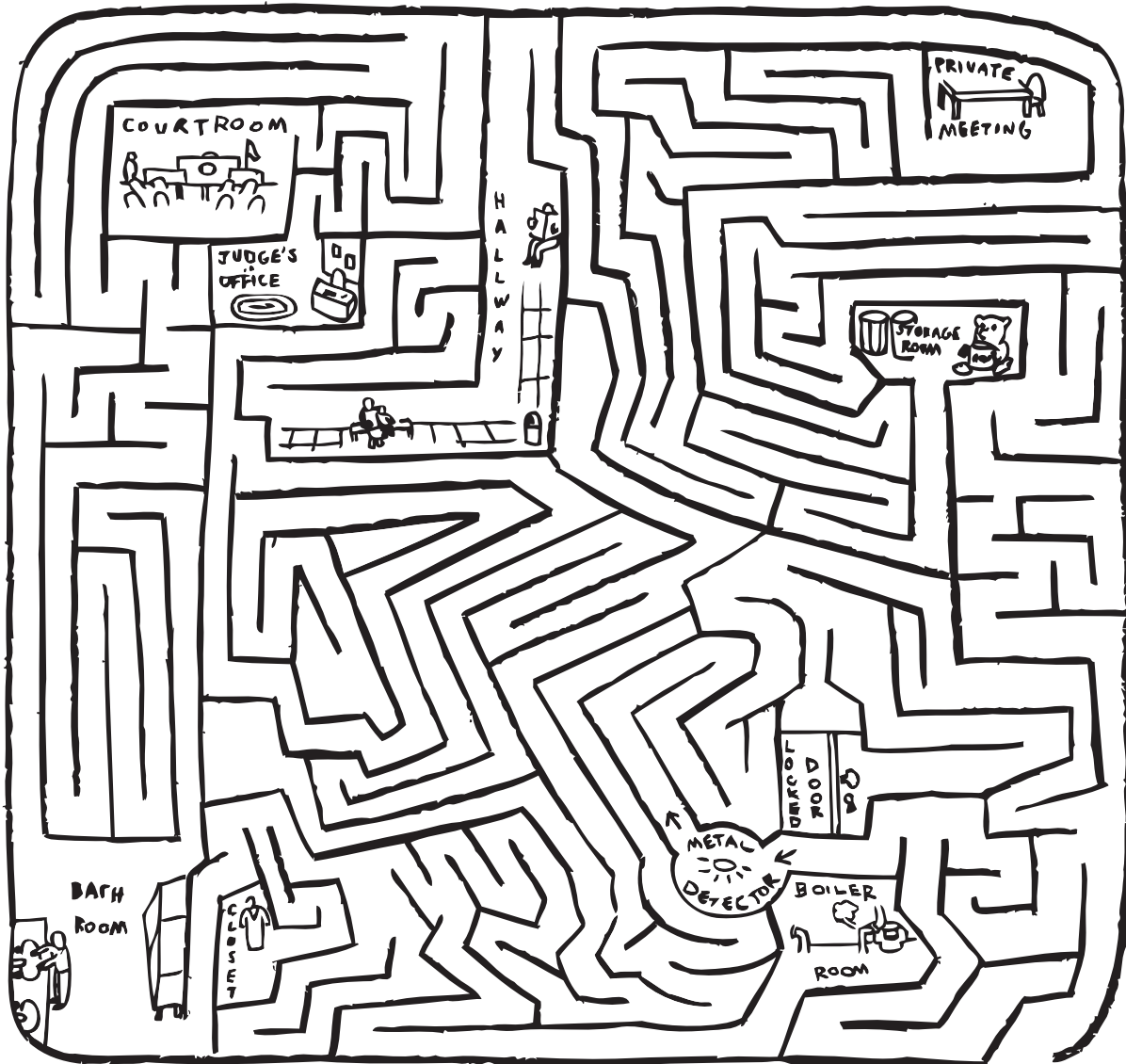
Court Reporter

This person says "all rise" and makes people obey the rules.

Interpreter

These people listen to both sides of a disagreement in court and then decide who wins.

Can You Find Your Way to the Courtroom?



Start Here ↑

Word Search

Search for the words in the list below and circle them once you find them. The words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, or backward.
(Answers are on page 25.)

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

FIND

COUNSELING

COURT

PARENTS

JUDGE

LAWYER

POLICE

PROBLEMS

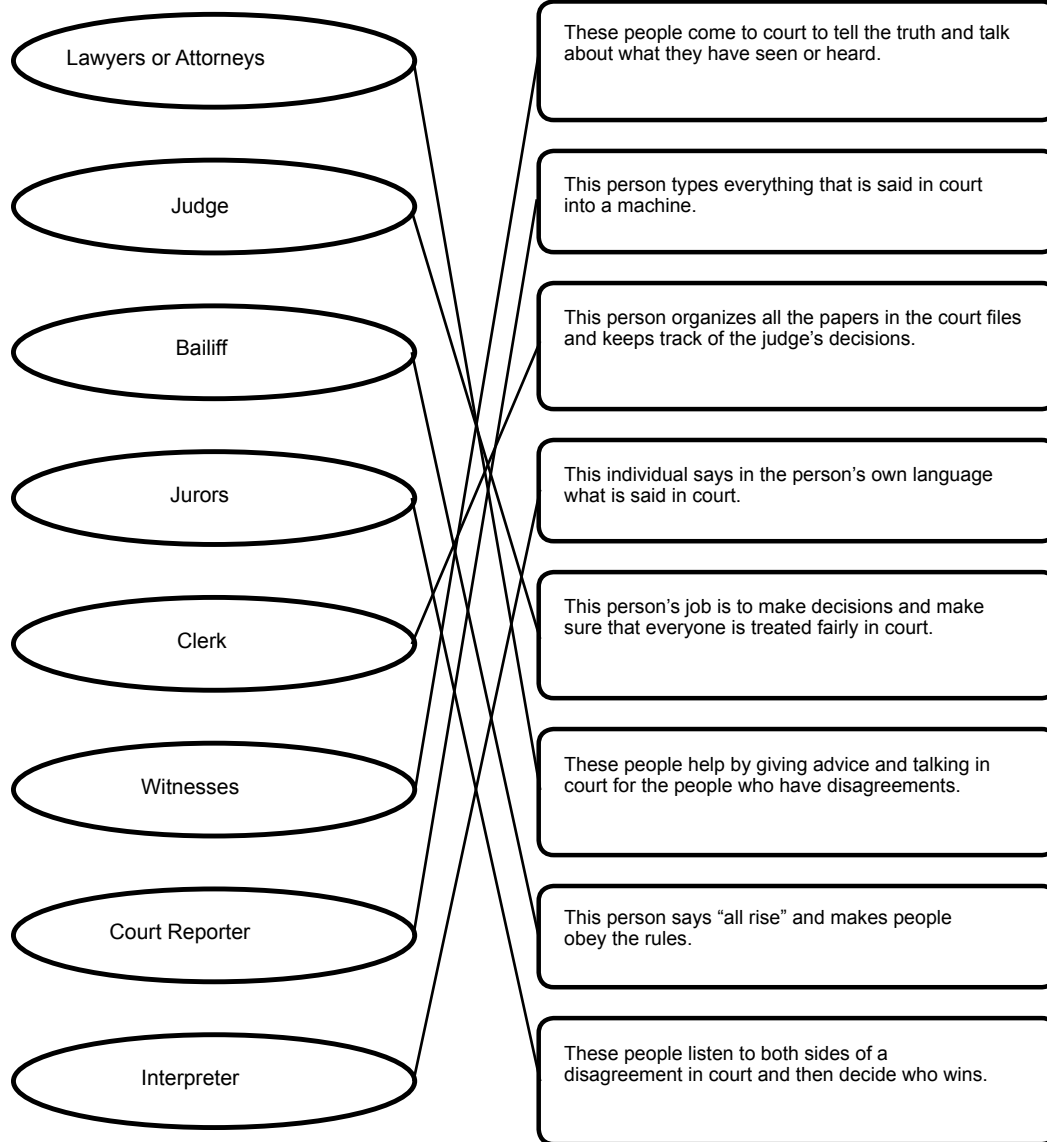
SCHOOL

TEACHER

Answer Key

PAGE 21

What Do They Do?



PAGE 23
Word Search

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

Acknowledgment

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For more information about the book, write to the address below. To make additional copies, visit the [Public Trust and Confidence Committee](#) web page and download the digital file.

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