Compliments of

Karen Bass

SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

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Rev. 6/07

THE OFFICIAL

Legislative ACTIVITY BOOK

of the California State Assembly

SUPER Puzzles and Fun Activities!

Compliments of
Speaker of the Assembly
Karen Bass

"Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

John F. Kennedy

Your State Representatives

Many constituents write letters and call their state representatives to talk about issues. *Work with a parent or teacher to find out who the representatives for your community are and how they can be reached.*

STATE OFFICERS

Governor:

Name: _____

Phone: ( ) _____

Address: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

State Senator:

Name: _____

Phone: ( ) _____

Address: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

State Assemblymember:

Name: _____

Phone: ( ) _____

Address: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

TIP: State officials can be found at (1) the front section of the phone book, (2) the California State Government website: **www.ca.gov**, (3) the California State Senate website: **www.senate.ca.gov**, and (4) the California State Assembly website: **www.assembly.ca.gov**.

Word Search & Jumble

Find the words from the word bank in the puzzle. They may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, upside down or backwards.

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

Word Bank: ASSEMBLY, EUREKA, LAW, STATE SEAL
BILL, FLAG, LEGISLATURE, VOTE
CALIFORNIA, GOLD, SACRAMENTO,
CAPITOL, GOVERNOR, SENATE

Fill in the spaces below with the underlined letters from the word bank. Then unscramble them to find out the names of California's state colors!

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

California's state colors are:

___ ___ ___ ___ & ___ ___ ___ ___

California State Assembly

Karen Bass

SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

Dear Student:

This activity book has been prepared as a fun introduction to the California State Legislature. The **Legislature** is the branch of government that makes the **state laws**. The Legislature is divided into two bodies: the **Assembly** and the **Senate**. It is located in the California State Capitol in **Sacramento**.

There are **80** Assembly **Districts**, so there are 80 **Assemblymembers**. Each Assembly District has about **423,000** people living in it. There are **40** Senate **Districts**, so there are 40 **Senators**, and each Senate District has about **846,000** people in it. With most jobs, people can usually work for as long as they like or until they have to retire. The Legislature is different. Assemblymembers can only stay for three two-year terms, for a total of **six years**, and Senators can only stay for two four-year terms for a total of **eight years**. This is called **term limits**.

Members of both the Assembly and the Senate write and pass laws that will make California a better place to live. A **bill** is an idea for a law. The Assembly gathers on the **Assembly floor** to discuss whether bills should become laws. To vote on a bill, Assemblymembers push electronic buttons on their **desks**. Then their names light up on an electronic board that shows whether they voted "yes" or "no" on a bill.

When the entire Assembly meets, they are in **Floor Session**. The Assemblymembers elect a leader to oversee these proceedings. The leader of the Assembly is called the **Speaker of the Assembly**. The Speaker is in charge of when the Assembly meets on the Assembly floor. When the Assembly is not in Floor Session, the Assemblymembers meet in small groups called **committees** that specialize in issues such as health or education.

When the Assemblymembers are not working in Sacramento, they go **home** to their own districts. They meet with their **constituents**, who are the people that live in their respective communities.

This should give you a good head start with this activity booklet. Use the information from this first page to start the first game. ***Have fun!***

Karen Bass

KAREN BASS
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

Fill-In-The-Blank

Based on the information on the previous page, answer each question by filling in the blank with the letter of the correct answer. Use each answer just once. To get started, the answer to question #1 is "state laws," so fill in the letter "C."

1. The Legislature is the group of people that makes the ____.
2. The Legislature meets in our State Capitol in ____.
3. Each Assembly District has about ____ people.
4. The Legislature is divided into two parts: the Assembly and the ____.
5. Each Senate District has about ____ people.
6. It is the job of the Assembly and Senate to ____.
7. There are ____ Senators in California.
8. There are ____ Assemblymembers in California.
9. Senators can work in the Senate for a total of ____ years.
10. Assemblymembers can work in the Assembly for a total of ___ years.
11. When the entire Assembly meets, they are ____.
12. The entire Assembly meets on the ____.
13. The leader of the Assembly is called the ____.
14. People who live in the Assemblymember's district are ____.
15. There are 80 Assembly ____.
16. The maximum length of time a person can work in the Legislature is called ____.
17. When Assemblymembers are not working in Sacramento they go ____.
18. On the Assembly floor, each Assemblymember sits at his or her own ____.

A. 8	**G.** Assembly floor	**M.** 40
B. 423,000	**H.** 6	**N.** districts
C. state laws	**I.** Sacramento	**O.** in Floor Session
D. desk	**J.** 846,000	**P.** term limits
E. 80	**K.** home	**Q.** pass laws
F. constituents	**L.** Speaker	**R.** Senate

1.C, 2.I, 3.B, 4.R, 5.J, 6.Q, 7.M, 8.E, 9.A, 10.H, 11.O, 12.G, 13.L, 14.F, 15.N, 16.P, 17.K, 18.D

Draw A New Great Seal

Over the years, California has changed because of the growth in population and technology. If the Great Seal was designed today, it would probably look very different. What types of things represent California today? What would a new Great Seal tell people about California? *Draw a new Great Seal that shows the things that make California special today.*

The Great Seal Of The State Of California

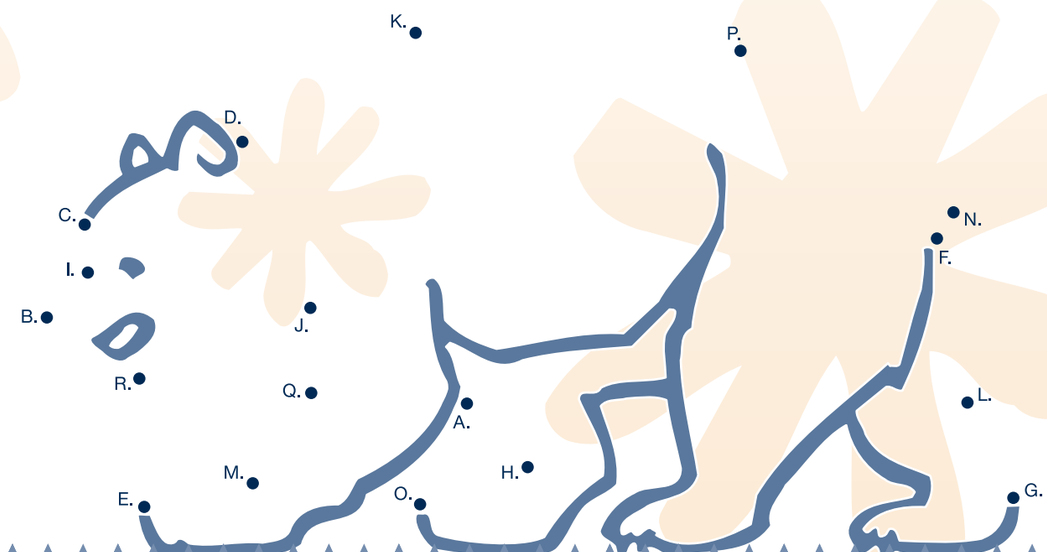
Why does California have a seal? The Great Seal is like a team logo. It identifies people that live here as being part of the community called California. California's seal was adopted in 1849; minor changes were made in 1937..

The Great Seal is more than just a beautiful picture. Everything in the seal has a special meaning. Find each one of the things that the designers of the seal wanted people to know about California.

- There are **31 stars** in the sky, because California was the 31st state to be admitted to the Union.
- Right under the 31 stars is the Greek word, "**Eureka**." It means "I have found it." It refers to the gold that people found in California and to the new state that people had found.
- In the foreground is the **grizzly bear**, which was common in California, with a sheaf of wheat on the ground, to be crushed into flour for bread.
- The California Gold Rush started in 1849 and a **miner** can be seen swinging his pick. Beside him are a rocker and bowl used for panning gold.
- **Ships** that fill the harbor are symbols of the exports of gold and other exciting new things that would be found in California and shipped from the new state.
- The person holding a staff is the Roman Goddess **Minerva**, the goddess of wisdom, commerce and crafts and the inventor of music. She represents California because she sprang to life full grown, just like California became a state without first being a territory.

Connect The Letters And Find The Hidden Picture

After answering all 18 questions, use the letters you chose to fill in each blank to find the hidden picture below. Start with the correct letter for question #1 and connect it to the correct letter for question #2. Then connect the letter for #2 to the letter for question #3, and keep connecting the letters, in order, all the way down to question #18. Do not draw between dots that are already connected (E to A and O to G).

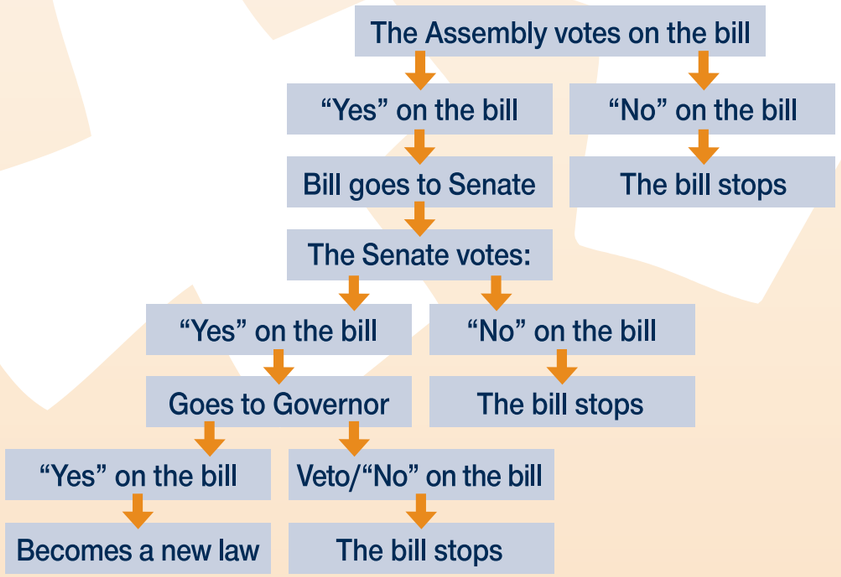


HINT: OUR STATE ANIMAL

How A Bill Becomes A Law

Read below to learn how an idea, called a "bill", actually becomes a law.

1. The Assemblymembers get together on the Assembly Floor and talk about whether or not they think the bill is a good idea. Then everyone gets to vote. Instead of putting up their hands, they push either the "yes" or the "no" electronic buttons on their desks. The vote shows up on a big lighted board in front of the room that has everyone's name on it. The majority vote, more than half, wins. So with 80 Assemblymembers, it takes 41 votes to pass a bill.
2. If the bill passes out of the Assembly, then it goes to the Senate, and they get to vote on it. Since there are 40 Senators, it takes 21 votes to reach a majority to pass a bill out of the Senate.
3. There is one step left. The Governor of California has the last vote, and he gets to decide whether or not the bill actually becomes a law.
   - If the Governor doesn't like the bill, he votes "no," which is called a veto. A veto means the bill will not become a law.
   - If the Governor likes the bill, he can vote "yes" by signing it, and the bill becomes a law. The Governor can also choose to do nothing for one month, in which case the bill automatically becomes a law.



Write A New Bill Idea

The most exciting thing about California's state government is that everyone can be involved in making laws. Ideas for new bills can come from anyone, even from students. New laws help solve problems in the community, such as pollution and traffic problems. *Now try and think of a bill idea that will make a difference in your community and make California a better place to live.*