

## Lesson

# 1

# Rules and Laws



### What to Know

What rules and laws do people follow in a community?

- ✓ Rules and laws help people get along and help keep people safe.
- ✓ Members of the community government make laws.

### Vocabulary

**cooperate** p. 252

**law** p. 253

**consequence** p. 253

**mayor** p. 254

**elect** p. 254

**citizen** p. 254

**court** p. 255

**judge** p. 255



### Main Idea and Details



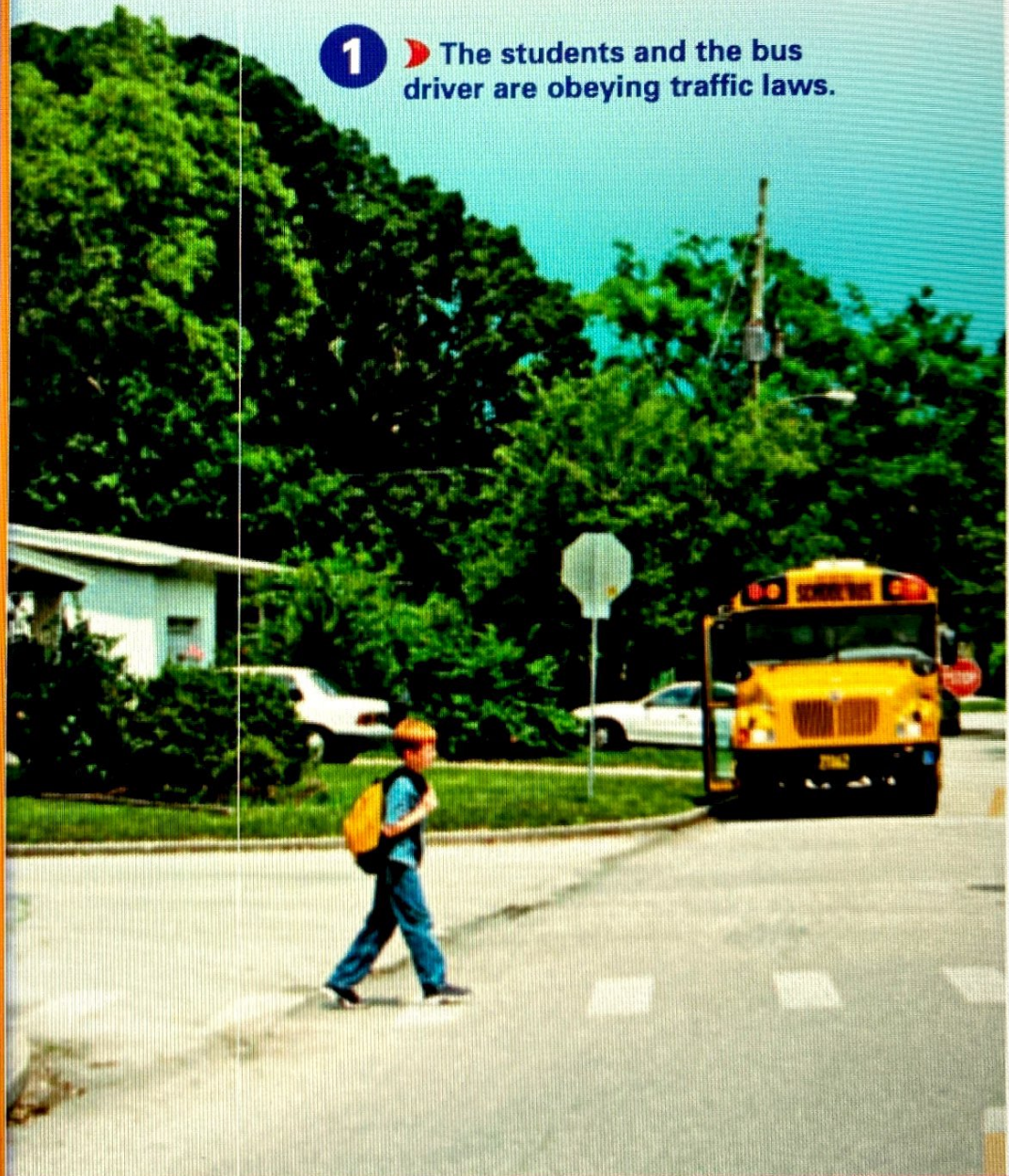
California Standards

HSS 3.4, 3.4.1, 3.4.4

Most of the time, people in a community get along with one another, but there are times when they do not. People need to **cooperate** (koh•AH•puh•rayt), or work together, to keep their community a safe and peaceful place to live.

1

The students and the bus driver are obeying traffic laws.



# Community Laws

To keep people safe, communities have rules. These rules are called **laws**. Traffic laws help people travel safely on the streets of a community. Without traffic laws, many people might be hurt in accidents.

People who break laws face consequences. A **consequence** (KAHN•suh•kwens) is what happens because of what a person does. One consequence is being hurt in an accident. A person who breaks a law may have to go to jail.

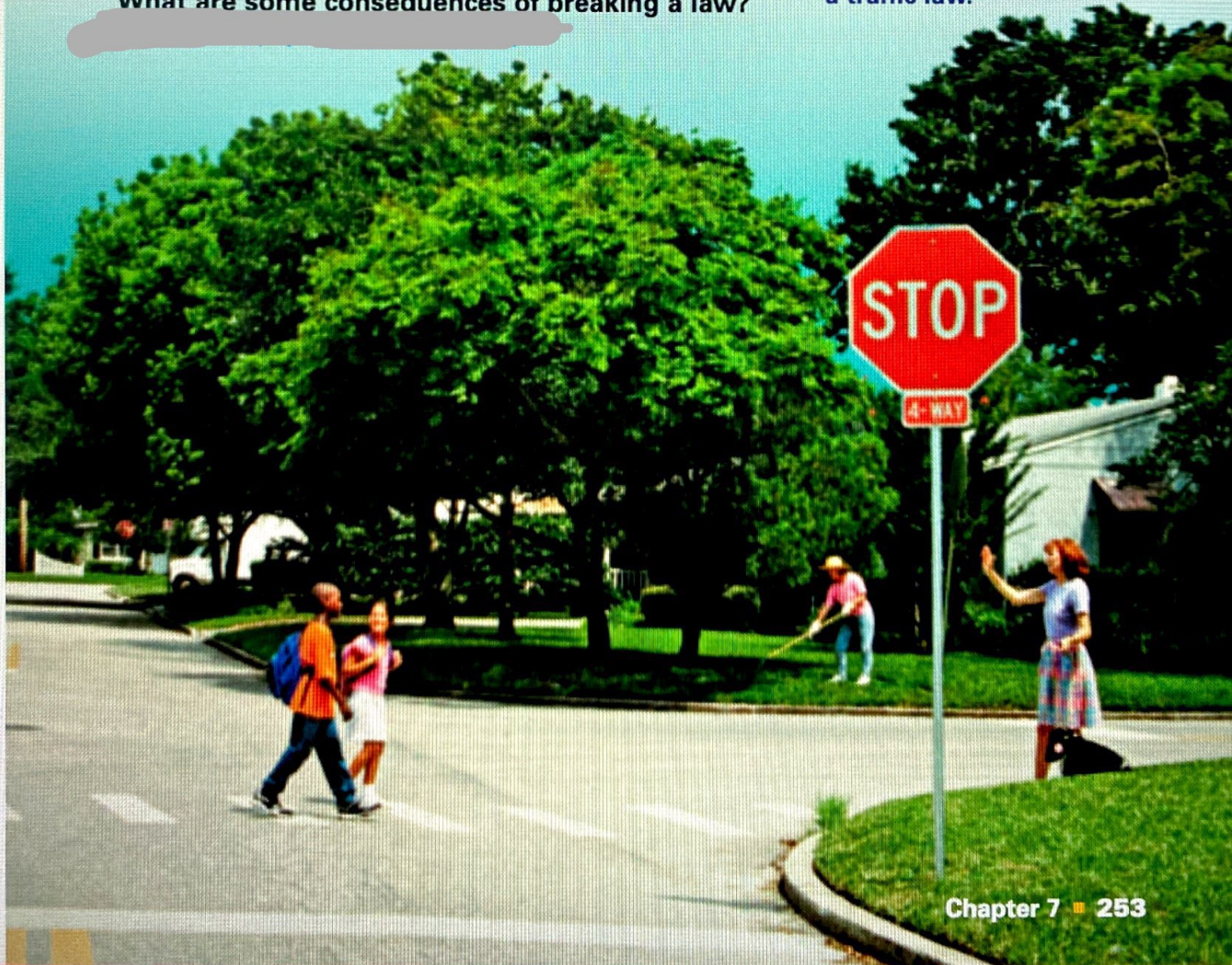
**Reading Check**

## 🌟 Main Idea and Details

What are some consequences of breaking a law?



➤ Paying a fine is one consequence of breaking a traffic law.



# Community Government



► Edward Cortez is Pomona's mayor.

**2** Each community has a way to make laws and to see that they are followed. In most communities, members of the government make the laws. The government members meet to talk about problems and decide how to solve them.

In some communities, the government leader is called a **mayor**. The mayor's job is to see that the community's problems are solved. The citizens of a community **elect** a mayor, or choose him or her by voting. A **citizen** is a person who lives in and belongs to a community.

► The mayor and other city officials work at Pomona City Hall.

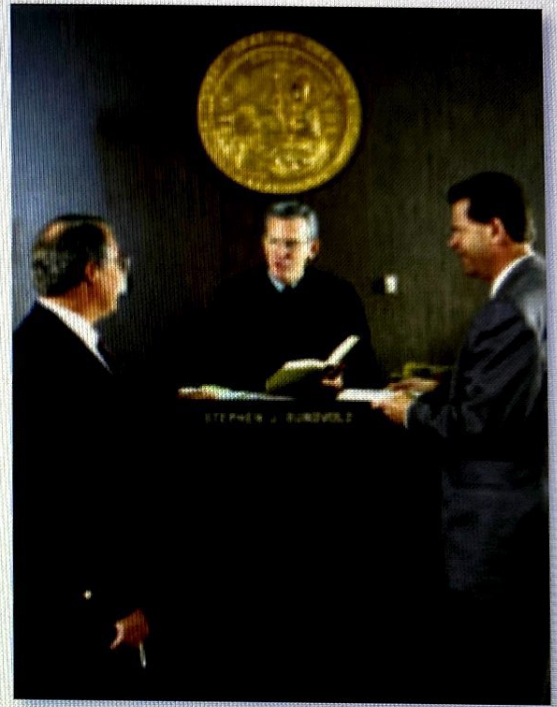


**3** Courts are another part of a community's government. A **court** is a place where a judge makes decisions about a law. **Judges** are people from the community who are chosen to work as leaders in the courts. Judges decide whether a person has broken a law. They also decide the consequences for those who have broken a law. Judges must be fair, or treat everyone in the same way.

**Reading Check** **Main Idea and Details**

What are some responsibilities of a community government?

**Summary** We have laws to help keep us safe and to help us get along with one another. The members of the community government make laws.



Judges decide consequences for people who break laws.

**Review**

- 1.** What rules and laws do people follow in a community?
- 2. Vocabulary** What might a **consequence** be for someone who breaks a law?
- 3. Your Community** Who is the mayor or leader of your community government?

**Critical Thinking**

- 4. Make It Relevant** How do you follow your community's laws?
- 5. Skill** What is the benefit of following rules and laws?

- 6. Write a List** Write a list of laws you have seen people follow in your community.

- 7. Focus Skill Main Idea and Details** On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete the graphic organizer below.

