

Are You Old Enough?

Student Workbook

Answer
Key

Name: _____





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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Summary of the Activity

This workbook presents the different responsibilities, freedoms and protections that you already have or will have in the future, depending on your age. Exercises and scenarios invite you to reflect on what could happen to you, make hypotheses on the right that applies, and then discover what the law stipulates.

Prior Knowledge

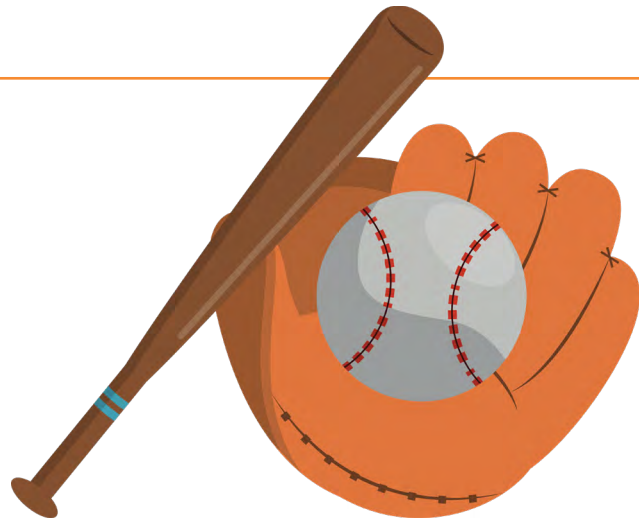
Do you know any of the responsibilities, freedoms and protections that apply to children? As of what age do they apply? Write down one or more examples.

Responsibilities

Scenario 1 The Broken Window

Romeo, 12 years old, breaks his neighbour's window while playing baseball. The neighbour demands that he be reimbursed for his new window.

Who will pay to replace the window?



Hypothesis: _____

Research on the Éducaloi website: Article, "[Legal Responsibility of Parents](#)"

What the law says:

- *Romeo could be held responsible for the damage and be required to reimburse the cost of replacing the window. Civil liability applies as of 7 years of age, when the child is able to understand the difference between right and wrong.*
- *The neighbour could also sue Romeo's parents for reimbursement.*

Civil Liability

Around 7 years of age, children can be held responsible for the damage they cause. Example: A 12-year-old could be sued if they break or damage property that doesn't belong to them.

Scenario 2

A Very Bad Day

Martina, 13 years old, is having a very bad day at school. She's really at the end of her rope. After school, Xing Yan makes fun of her. Martina explodes and punches her in the face, breaking her nose. Xing Yan's parents are furious.

What can Xing Yan's parents do in this situation?



Hypothesis: _____

Research on the Éducaloi website: Article, "[Teens Accused of Crimes: Possible Outcomes.](#)"

What the law says:

- *The parents could file a police complaint for physical assault. Criminal responsibility applies as of age 12.*
- *The parents could also take Martina and/or her parents to civil court (civil liability). For example, they could ask to be reimbursed for the medical costs they incurred for Xing Yan's care, or compensated for the pain she experienced.*

Criminal Responsibility

As of 12 years of age, children can be charged with a crime. Example: theft, physical assault or sexual assault, drug possession or drug dealing, etc.

Scenario 3

The Red Light

Lara, 14 years old, is walking to school. She realizes she might be late. There are no cars coming so she decides to run across the street against a red light. She's stopped by the police.

What are the possible consequences for Lara?

Hypothesis: _____



Research on the Éducaloi website: Article, "[Teenagers: Tickets and Fines](#)"

What the law says:

- *A person who crosses the street against a red light can be fined \$15 to \$30, even if there were no cars in sight. Children can be fined as of 14 years of age. So, Lara, who's 14, could be fined, or she could be given a warning. The police could also inform her parents of the situation.*

A Fine

A document that the police give to someone who violated a regulation or a law. A fine is also called a "ticket." It indicates the amount to pay for violating a rule. Children can be fined as of 14 years of age.



Fine: A document that the police give to someone who violated a regulation or a law.

Age of Majority

When someone reaches the age of majority, they have all the possible responsibilities and freedoms of an adult. The age of majority is 18.



Majority: The legal age at which a person is considered an adult under the law.

Summary

Complete the missing terms under the following images:



Around age 7

Civil
liability



At age 12

Criminal
responsibility



At age 14

Receive a
fine



At age 18

Age of majority

Freedoms

Scenario 4 – First Love

Mallory is 14 years old and madly in love with her neighbour, Antoine, who's 18. They've been dating for a few weeks. Recently, Antoine suggested that Mallory sleep over at his place because his parents will be away for two weeks for work. When Mallory's parents learn of the relationship, they strongly disapprove—Mallory is too young to go out with an 18-year-old and to sleep over at his place! Can Mallory and Antoine go ahead and do what they want anyway?



Hypothesis:

Research on the Éducaloi website: Article, "[Sexual Consent of Teenagers](#)"

What the law says:

- *The consent of a child under 12 years of age is never valid.*
- *When the younger partner is 12 or 13 years old, the age difference must be less than 2 years to engage in sexual touching (kissing, caressing or sexual relations).*
- *When the younger partner is 14 or 15 years old, the age difference must be less than 5 years to engage in sexual touching. Therefore, the relationship between Mallory and Antoine is legal.*
- *If the age difference under the law is not respected, the older person can be charged with a crime, even if there's consent.*
- *Consent is not valid if there's a relationship of power, for example, a tutor or a coach with their student.*

Consent

Consent is a very broad concept that applies to many situations. For example, a person can consent to health care or to engaging in sexual touching (kissing, caressing or sexual relations) with someone else.



Consent: Agreement given by a person to an action or a plan.

Teens can consent to sexual activities with other teens of approximately the same age as of age 12.
As of age 16, sexual consent is possible, regardless of the age difference between the partners.

Scenario 5 – A New Name

Gabriel Hilal is 15 years old and wants to change his name to Ronaldo Hilal. He's always dreamed of having the same first name as his favourite soccer player!

Does he have the right to do this?

Hypothesis: _____



Research on the Éducaloi website: Article, "[Changing Your Name](#)"

What the law says:

- *A person can only request a name change for a serious reason. For example, someone can request a name change if their name is too difficult to write or if it's ridiculed.*
Gabriel will probably not be allowed to change his name because he doesn't have a serious reason.
- *Even if he were an adult, the same principle would apply.*

Consent to care

As of 14 years of age, a minor can consent on their own to care essential to their state of health. Examples: receiving a blood transfusion, having a medical procedure, like an abortion, etc.

If the young person spends more than 12 hours in a health or social services facility, the parents will be informed.

If care not essential to their state of health poses a serious risk to their health or could have serious and permanent effects, the parents' consent is required. For example: cosmetic surgery.

Driving

As of 16 years of age, a person can start driving if they get their licence. As a driver, they must follow the rules in the *Highway Safety Code*, as must anyone on a bicycle or walking along a public road.

Summary

Complete the missing terms under the following images:



At age 12

Sexual consent
with other
teens



At age 14

Consent to
care



At age 16

Drive



At age 18

Age of majority

Protections

There are several laws that protect children, such as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Youth Protection Act*.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

This convention is an international document dating back to 1989. It sets out more than 50 rights that must be respected for all children around the world. More than 195 countries have signed the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, including Canada.

To learn more, see the article by Unicef Canada, “The Convention on the Rights of the Child in Child-Friendly Language.”

Youth Protection Act

This law protects minors (under 18 years of age). It enables the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) to intervene when a child’s security or development is in danger.

Anyone can report a problematic situation involving a child to the Director of Youth Protection.



Scenario 6

Agonizing Choice

Amber is 15 years old and her parents are separating. Her mother wants to move to Saint-Jérôme. She'd like Amber to stay with her every second week, but her father would prefer she spend as much time as possible with him in Longueuil, close to her best friends and cousins. Amber would prefer to stay in Longueuil.

Who will decide where Amber lives?
Where will she live?



Hypothesis: _____

Research on the Éducaloi website: Article, "[Choosing Which Parent to Live With.](#)"

What the law says:

- *If the parents can't come to an agreement, a judge will have to decide where Amber lives. He or she will make the decision based on Amber's best interest and taking her views into account.*
- *Under Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to give their view on questions affecting them, such as the time Amber would like to spend with her parents. In Quebec, for example, Amber could choose to speak directly with her parents, speak with the experts involved in her parents' separation, or even speak directly with a judge.*

Scenario 7 – A Friend's Distress

You notice that your classmate, Giovane, is increasingly unhappy since her mother's new boyfriend moved in with them. The weeks when Giovane is with her mother, she never seems to want to go home. She's always been well behaved but now she goes out of her way to get detentions after school so that her mother has to come pick her up! You've also noticed that her new stepfather always wants to be alone with Giovane. He's even told you to go home shortly after her mother leaves the house, even though you were there to hang out with Giovane. You're worried about your friend.

What can you do?

Hypothesis: _____



Research on the Éducaloi website: Articles, "[How to Report a Situation to the DYP \(Director of Youth Protection\)](#)" and "[The Role of the Director of Youth Protection \(DYP\)](#)."

What the law says:

- *You could talk about the situation with your parents or an adult at school. The situation should be reported to the DYP, since the adults at school will be required to take action.*
- *Under Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, children must be protected from violence and maltreatment.*
- *The DYP can intervene when a child's security or development is in danger. For example, the DYP can sign an agreement with the parents, or request that a judge order that certain people not come into contact with the child, or order that the parents or the child undergo therapy.*



Summary

Complete the following statements describing different protections set out for children.

- The **Youth Protection Act** protects minors (under 18 years of age). It enables the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) to intervene when a child's security or development is in danger.
- The **Education Act** states that all children in Quebec are required to go to school from age 6 to 16. All children must be treated fairly at school.
- The **Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms** protects all Quebecers, children and adults alike. Among other things, it guarantees the right to life and security, freedom of expression, and protection from discrimination.
- The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** was signed by many countries, including Canada. It sets out the principles upon which to act in the best interest of children.



Hypothesis Game

For each situation, make a hypothesis on the age at which the law or regulations apply. Then, enter the correct answer provided by your teacher.

Situations	Hypothesis of age	Correct answer
1) I can get a criminal record. <i>Explanation: People under 18 years of age can get a "record" or "youth record." Minors don't get criminal records, unless they're punished as adults.</i>		18 years old
2) I can get married. <i>Explanation: You have to be at least 16 years of age to get married. However, if someone is 16 or 17 at the time of marriage, the court must authorize the marriage.</i>		16 years old
3) I could be fined if I don't wear my seatbelt. <i>Explanation: Children can be fined as of 14 years of age. The driver must also ensure that passengers under 16 years of age are wearing their seatbelts. Otherwise, they could also be fined.</i>		14 years old

Situations	Hypothesis of age	Correct answer
4) I can give my own consent for a tattoo. <i>Explanation: A tattoo can be considered care not essential to your health. If you're 14 to 17 years old, most judges believe you can decide on your own, as long as you fully understand the consequences and the procedure doesn't pose a serious health risk. However, a tattoo parlour can refuse to tattoo you if you're under 18.</i>		14 years old
5) I can ride an e-bike. <i>Explanation: Riding an e-bike is currently reserved for people 18 years of age or over, unless there's an exceptional situation.</i> _____ _____ _____		18 years old

Review Exercise: True or False?

For each statement, choose true or false.

Statement	True	False
1) A parent can be held responsible for damage caused by their child. <i>Explanation: Parents are responsible for their child's care, supervision and education. Unless the parents can prove that they didn't fail in any of these responsibilities, they can be held responsible for their child's actions.</i>	X	
2) A person can be held responsible for damage caused to their neighbour's fence by their dog. <i>Explanation: Pet owners are responsible for their pet's actions. This is the case even if the animal was being kept by someone else at the time of the incident, or if the animal escaped.</i>	X	
3) The parent of a 13-year-old child who doesn't wear their seatbelt in the car can be fined. <i>Explanation: Children can be fined as of the age of 14. The driver must also ensure that passengers under 16 years of age are wearing their seatbelts. Otherwise, they could also be fined.</i>	X	

Statement	True	False
4) It's impossible to lose demerit points before obtaining a driver's licence. For example, if you're a passenger in a car and the police stop you for not wearing your seatbelt. <i>Explanation: It's possible to lose demerit points before obtaining a driver's licence. The points are entered in the person's driving file and could suspend their right to obtain a licence for a period of time.</i>		X
5) A cyclist who fails to respect a traffic light will lose points on their driver's licence. <i>Explanation: If the Highway Safety Code is violated, cyclists can be fined, but they don't lose demerit points. For example, there's a fine of \$80 to \$100 for failing to respect a traffic light.</i>		X
6) Someone riding an e-bike without a helmet can be fined. <i>Explanation: Wearing a helmet is mandatory when riding an e-bike. Someone riding without a helmet can be fined between \$60 and \$100.</i>	X	
7) A 16-year-old who engages in sexual touching with a 13-year-old can be charged with sexual assault. <i>Explanation: The sexual consent of a 12- or 13-year-old is only valid if the other person is less than 2 years older than them. Sexual touching without valid consent can be considered sexual assault.</i>	X	



Statement	True	False
8) A 15-year-old can engage in sexual touching with their 18-year-old volleyball coach if they're both in agreement. <i>Explanation: Before 18 years of age, a teenager cannot give valid consent if they're in a relationship of power. A mentor, teacher or sports coach may be in a position of authority or trust. Judges evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis to decide if someone abused their position.</i>		X

Conclusion

- 1) Which responsibility or freedom are you most looking forward to obtaining? Why? How old will you be when you obtain it?

- 2) Which protection do you consider the most important? Why?

- 3) Which scenario surprised you the most? Why?
