

Are You Old Enough?

Student Workbook

Name: _____





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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Activity Overview

This workbook presents the different responsibilities, freedoms and protections that you already have or will have at different ages. Exercises and scenarios invite you to reflect on what could happen to you, make hypotheses about what the law says, and then find out what the law actually provides.

Prior Knowledge

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

Responsibilities

Scenario 1: The Broken Window

Maxime, 10 years old, broke his neighbour's window while playing baseball. His neighbour demands that he be reimbursed for his new window.

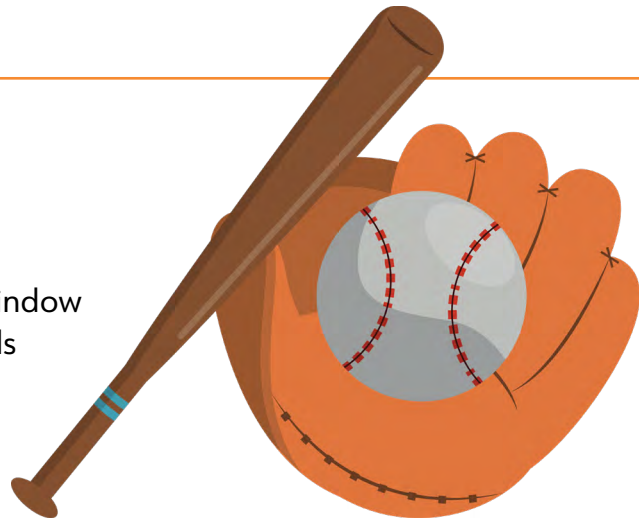
Who will pay to replace the window?

Hypothesis:

What the law says:

Civil liability

Around age _____, children can be held responsible for the damage they cause.
Example: A 9-year-old could be sued if they break or damage property that doesn't belong to them.



Scenario 2: A Very Bad Day

Leah, 12 years old, is having a very bad day at school. She's really at the end of her rope. After school, Marie makes fun of her. Leah loses her temper and punches her in the face, breaking her nose. Marie's parents are furious.

What can Marie's parents do in this situation?



Hypothesis:

What the law says:

Criminal responsibility

Starting at age _____, children can be charged with a crime. Examples include theft, physical assault or sexual assault, drug possession or drug dealing, etc.

Scenario 3: The Red Light

Rosa, 13 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 possible consequence(s) can Rosa face?

Hypothesis:

What the law says:



The fine

A fine is also called a “statement of offence” or a “ticket.” It states the amount of money to pay for breaking a rule. Children can receive a fine starting at _____ years old.



Fine : A document that the police give to a person who broke a regulation or a law.

Majority

When a person reaches the age of majority, they have all the responsibilities and freedoms of an adult. The age of majority is _____.



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 _____

_____ liability



At age _____

_____ responsibility



At age _____

Can receive

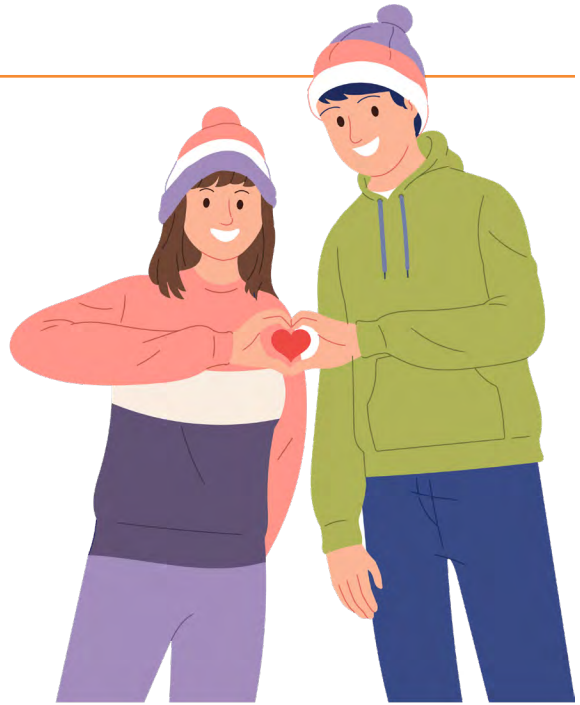


At age _____

Freedoms

Scenario 4: First Love

Mira is 12 years old. She is in love with her neighbour Romeo, who's 16. They've been dating for a few weeks. Recently, Romeo suggested that Mira sleep over at his place because his parents will be away for two weeks for work. When Mira's parents learn of the relationship, they strongly disapprove. They think Mira is too young to date a 16-year-old and sleep over at his place! Can Mira and Romeo do what they want anyway?



Hypothesis: _____

What the law says:

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 activities (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 _____. As of age _____, sexual consent is possible, regardless of the age difference between the partners.

Scenario 5: A New Name

Seth Abdou is 14 years old and wants to change his name to Ronaldo Abdou. It's always been his dream to have the same first name as his favourite soccer player!

Does he have the right to do this?

Hypothesis: _____



What the law says:

Consent to care

As of _____ years of age, a minor can consent on their own to care that is essential to their health. Examples include receiving a blood transfusion or having a medical procedure like getting an abortion.

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

If the care in question is not essential to their health and 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 the age of _____, a person can receive a licence and start driving. As a driver, they must follow the rules found 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 _____

Sexual consent
with other



At age _____

Consent to



At age _____



At age _____

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 allows the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) to intervene when a child's not safe or when their development is at risk.

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



Scenario 6: An Agonizing Choice

Ines is 13 years old and her parents are separating. Her mother wants to move to Saint-Jérôme. She'd like Ines 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. Ines would prefer to stay in Longueuil.

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



Hypothesis: _____

What the law says:

Scenario 7: A Friend's Distress

You notice that your classmate, Mallory, is increasingly unhappy since her mother's new boyfriend moved in with them. When Mallory spends the week at her mother's house, 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 Mallory. He's even told you to go home even though you shortly after her mother left the house while you were there to hang out with Mallory. You're worried about your friend.



What can you do?

Hypothesis: _____

What the law says:

[illegible]

Summary

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

- The **Convention on the Rights of the Child** was signed by many countries, including _____. It sets out the principles upon which to act in the best _____ of children.
- The **Youth Protection Act** protects _____ (under 18 years of age). It allows the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) to intervene when a child is not _____ or when their _____ is at risk.
- 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 _____ 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 _____, freedom of _____, and protection against _____.



Hypothesis Game

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

Situations	Hypothesis of age	Correct answer
1) I can get a criminal record. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
2) I can get married. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
3) I could be fined if I don't wear my seatbelt. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		



Situations	Hypothesis of age	Correct answer
4) I can consent on my own to getting a tattoo. 		
5) I can ride an e-bike. 		

Review Exercise: True or False?

For each statement, check whether it's true or false.

Statement	True	False
1) A parent can be held responsible for damage caused by their child.		
2) A person can be held responsible for damage their dog causes to a neighbour's fence.		
3) The parent of a 12-year-old child who doesn't wear their seatbelt in the car can be fined.		



Statement	True	False
4) It's impossible to lose demerit points before getting a driver's licence, like if a person is stopped by the police for not wearing a seat belt while riding as a passenger in a car. 		
5) A cyclist who fails to respect a traffic light will lose points on their driver's licence. 		
6) Someone riding an e-bike without a helmet can be fined. 		
7) A 16-year-old who engages in sexual activities with a 13-year-old can be charged with sexual assault. 		



Statement	True	False
8) A 12-year-old can engage in sexual activities with their 14-year-old mentor if they both agree.		

Conclusion

- 1) Which responsibility or freedom are you most looking forward to having? Why?
At what age will you get it?

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

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