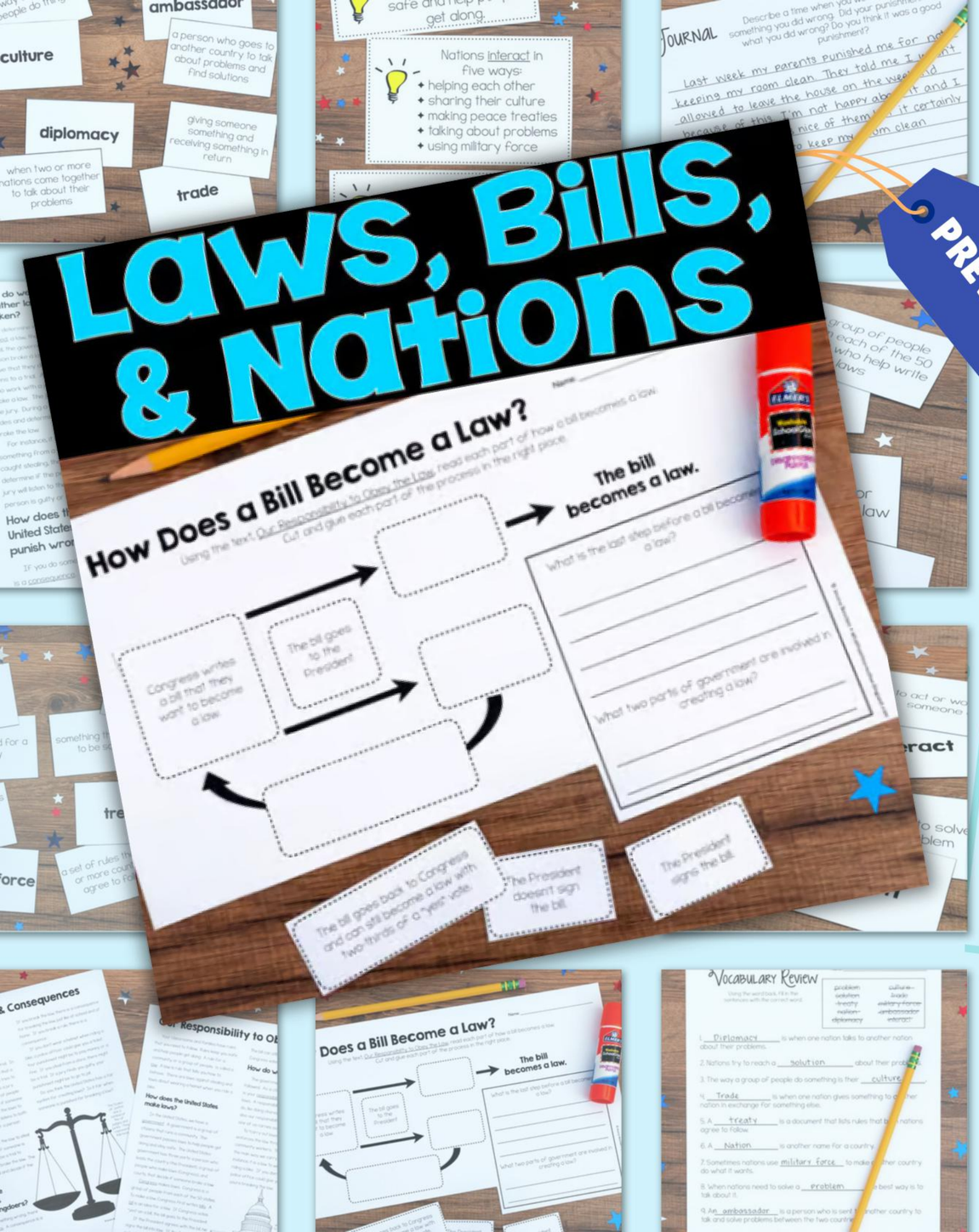


From school rules to world treaties...

2ND – 4TH GRADES

LAWS, BILLS, & NATIONS

SOCIAL STUDIES UNIT

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT YOU'LL GET

- **Lesson plans** for each topic
- **Vocabulary cards**
- **Original texts**
- **Interactive activities** for deeper learning
- **Critical thinking prompts**
- **Written assessment** to check understanding

TOPICS INCLUDE

- **All About Laws**
- **How a Bill Becomes a Law**
- **Responsibilities & Consequences**
- **How Nations Interact**

SKILLS STUDENTS LEARN

- Understanding **laws and consequences**
- Explaining **how a bill becomes a law**
- Comparing **rules at home, school, and community**
- Identifying **responsibilities of citizens**
- Describing **ways nations work together** (trade, culture, treaties, diplomacy, military force)
- Using **academic vocabulary** in context

BIG IDEAS

The government makes laws to keep people safe and help people get along.

Nations and groups of people work together to try to solve problems.

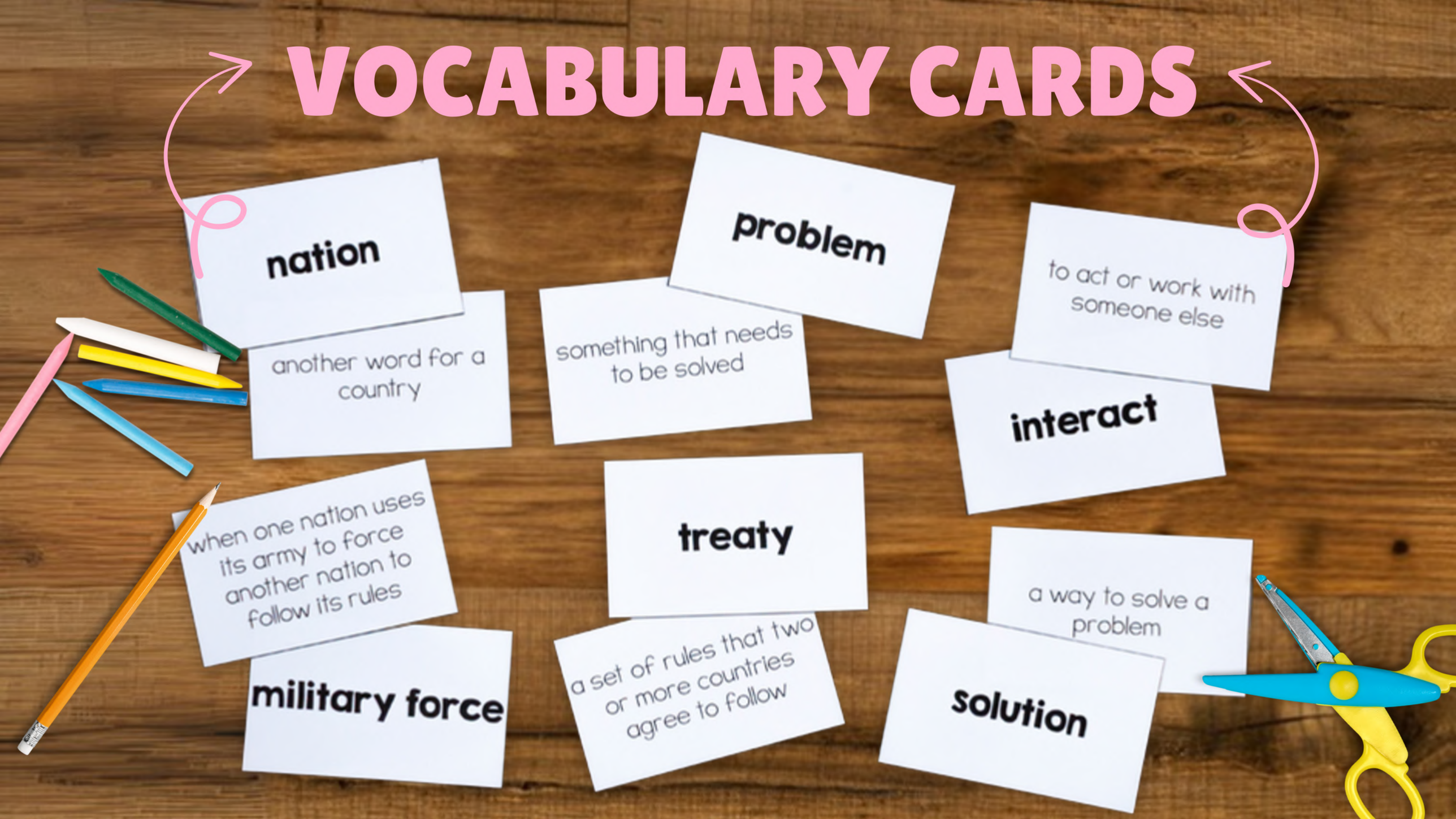
Nations interact in five ways:

- helping each other
- sharing their culture
- making peace treaties
- talking about problems
- using military force

People must follow the laws.

There are consequences for people who break laws.

VOCABULARY CARDS



READING PASSAGE

Nations Work Together to Solve Problems

What happens when you get in a fight or have a problem with someone? How do you work it out? Many times, two people who get in a fight have to work it out by talking with each other. They work together to try to resolve their problem and find a solution. Not all nations or countries have the same type of government or culture. Not all countries speak the same language. These differences in government, culture, and language can cause problems and disagreements. Here are a few ways countries interact with one another and solve problems.

Help Each Other

Nations often help one another by working together. Countries need to work together to help each other when there is an emergency or if one country does not have enough food. For example one country might grow a certain kind of food. Another country might make clothing. Each country can give what they have to the other nation. This is called trading. Countries can help one another other by trading.

Another way countries can help each other is during an emergency. If one country is hurt during an earthquake, tsunami, or other natural disaster, one country can give food, clothing, and medicine to the country that is hurt.

Share About Their Culture

As you know, different countries have different cultures, languages, and customs. We live in a wonderful world where we can learn and explore what is important to each country and what makes it unique. Another way nations interact with one another is by sharing their culture with each other. People's culture is their way of doing things. In the United States, many different nations have come together in one place. This makes our country unique. We can see different dances from different cultures, eat different foods, and celebrate different holidays. What holidays and events do you celebrate in your family that makes your culture unique?

Keep Peace

Each country has its own set of laws and customs. Because of these differences, countries do not always agree on how to do things. To keep peace, nations talk about their differences and try to reach an agreement that is fair. They might write a treaty, which is a set of rules that both nations agree to follow. Peace treaties keep nations around the world from going to war. Not everyone agrees to sign treaties, however.

Diplomacy

When there is a disagreement, the
aders of each nation get together to talk
ut how to solve the problem. This is called
acy.

hool, if you have a disagreement
ssmate and you can't solve the
urselves, your teacher, or another
u solve the problem. The adult
ides of the issue and helps
greement to solve the

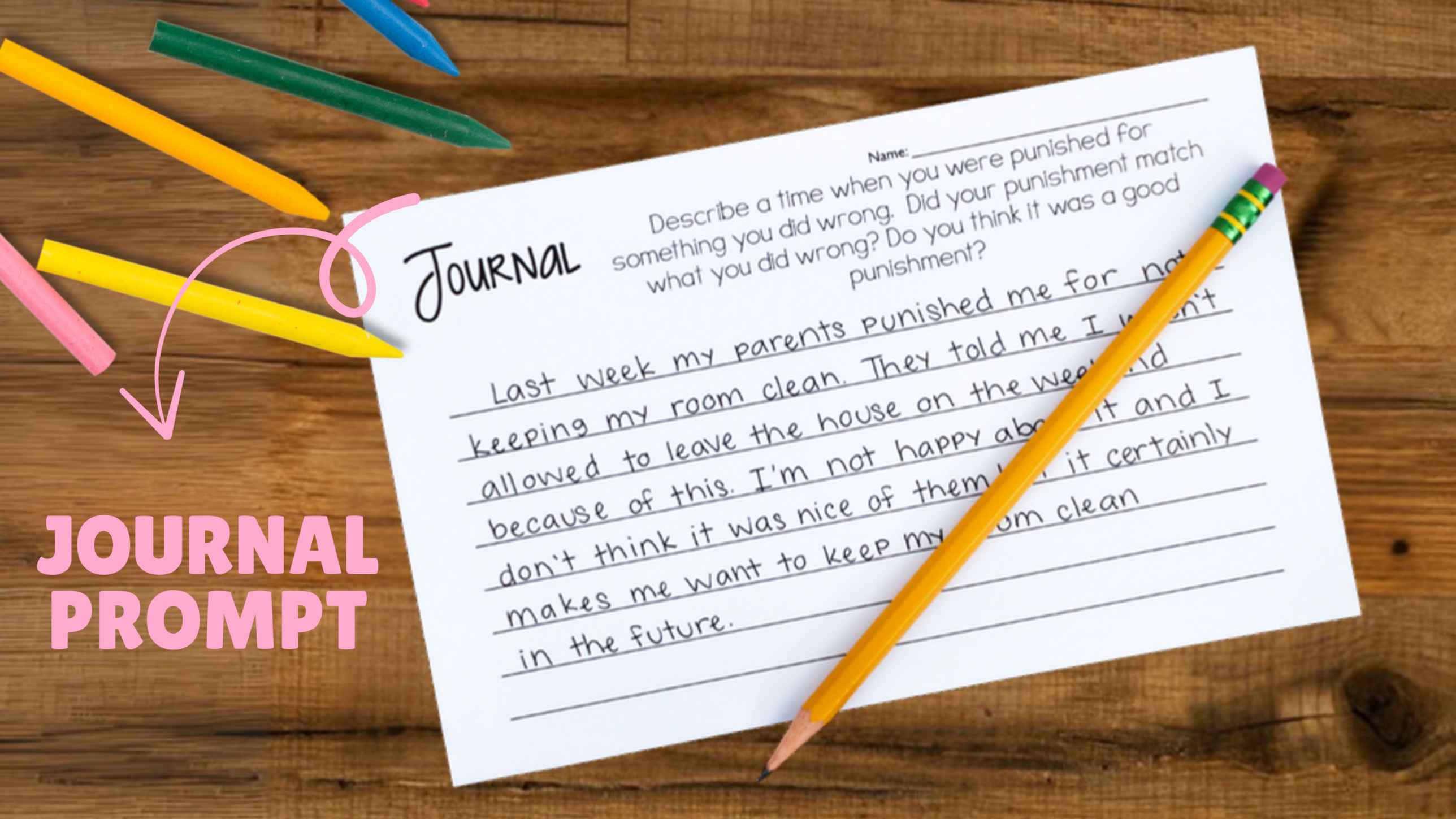
ave someone called an
assador is a person
country to talk and
ents on issues where the two
es may disagree. The United States
has ambassadors in many different
countries.

Military Force

Unfortunately, there are times when two nations cannot come to an agreement. In that case, one nation uses military force to make the other country do what it wants. Military force is when one country forces another country to do something using an army. This is not the best solution to a problem, but sometimes, it is the only solution, when one country does not want to compromise.

Military force was used by the United States on Iraq in 2003. Iraq had big weapons that could hurt many people. The United States wanted Iraq to disable the weapons, but Iraq said no. The two nations could not come to an agreement, so the United States decided to use military force to make Iraq give up their weapons.

Using military force is a last resort. Agreeing to treat each other nicely or talking about problems is much better than fighting.


JOURNAL PROMPT
Journal
Name:
Describe a time when you were punished for something you did wrong. Did your punishment match what you did wrong? Do you think it was a good punishment?
Last week my parents punished me for not keeping my room clean. They told me I wasn't allowed to leave the house on the weekend because of this. I'm not happy about it and I don't think it was nice of them, but it certainly makes me want to keep my room clean in the future.

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Name: _____

Main Idea & Details

Using the article, describe five ways nations interact with one another.

Nations work together.

Nations work together to help during emergencies or if one country doesn't have enough food.

Nations share their different cultures, languages, and customs. This helps us to learn and explore what is important to others.

To keep peace, nations talk about their differences and try to reach an agreement that is fair.

When there is a disagreement, the leaders of each nation get together to talk about how to solve the problem.

If two nations cannot come to an agreement, one nation will use military force to make the other country do something.

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Vocabulary Review

Name: _____

Using the word bank, fill in the sentences with the correct word.

~~problem~~ ~~solution~~ ~~treaty~~ ~~nation~~ ~~diplomacy~~ ~~culture~~ ~~trade~~ ~~military force~~ ~~ambassador~~ ~~interact~~

1. Diplomacy is when one nation talks to another nation about their problems.
2. Nations try to reach a solution about their problems.
3. The way a group of people do something is their culture.
4. Trade is when one nation gives something to another nation in exchange for something else.
5. A treaty is a document that lists rules that both nations agree to follow.
6. A Nation is another name for a country.
7. Sometimes nations use military force to make another country do what it wants.
8. When nations need to solve a problem, the best way is to talk about it.
9. An ambassador is a person who is sent to another country to talk and solve problems between the two countries.
10. Five ways nations interact with one another are trading, sharing their culture, keeping peace, diplomacy, and using military force.

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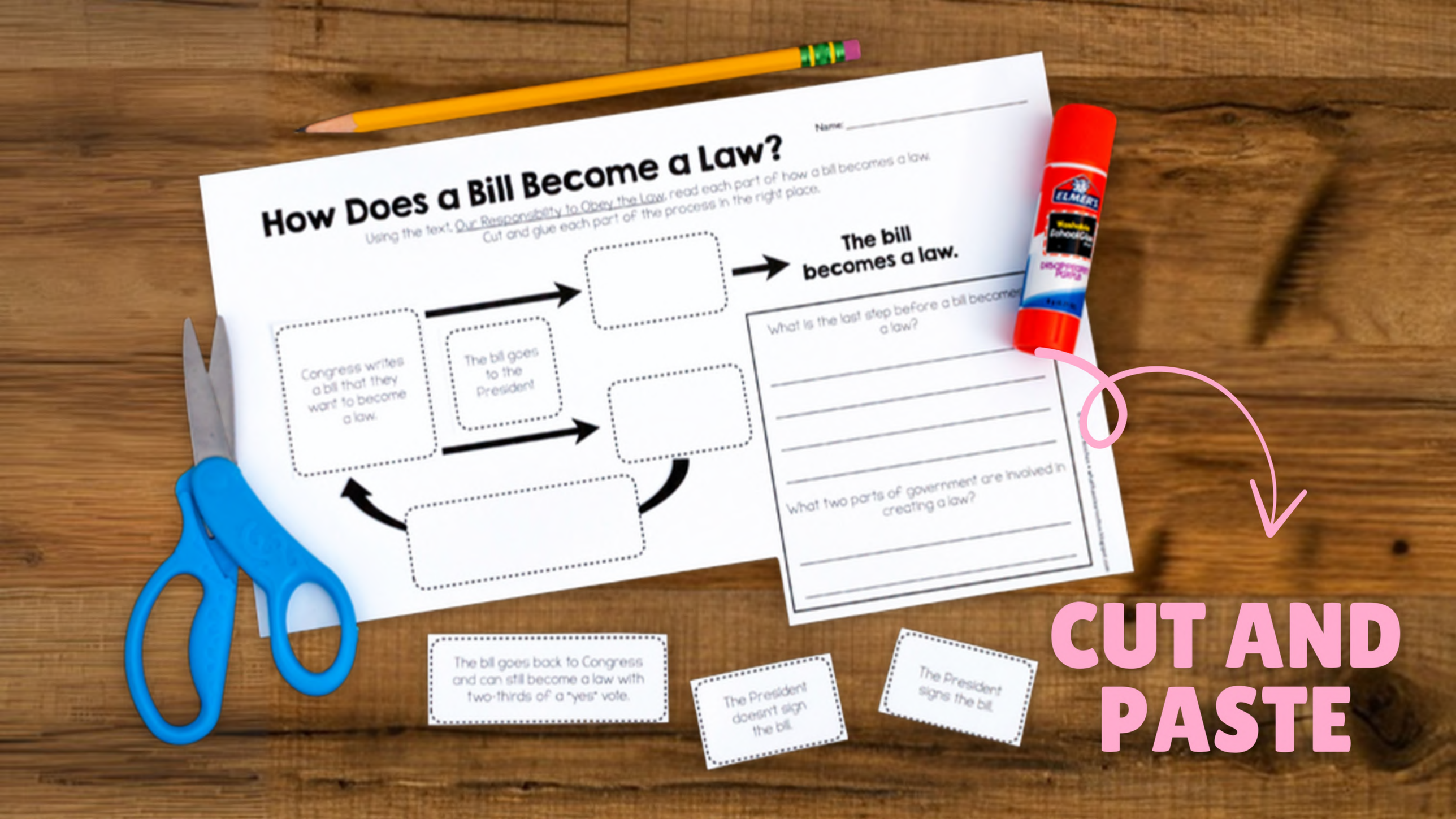
VOCABULARY REVIEW


How Does a Bill Become a Law?
Name:
Using the text, Our Responsibility to Obey the Law, read each part of how a bill becomes a law.
Cut and glue each part of the process in the right place.
Congress writes a bill that they want to become a law.
The bill goes to the President
The bill becomes a law.
What is the last step before a bill becomes a law?
What two parts of government are involved in creating a law?
The bill goes back to Congress and can still become a law with two-thirds of a "yes" vote.
The President doesn't sign the bill.
The President signs the bill.
CUT AND PASTE

WHY IT'S VALUABLE FOR TEACHERS

Complete & Ready-to-Use

Lesson plans, vocabulary cards, activities, and assessments are done for you—just print, teach, and engage students.

Builds Critical Thinking

Prompts connect school and community rules to real-world government and global cooperation.

Student-Friendly Explanations

Complex ideas like laws, diplomacy, and treaties are broken into clear, age-appropriate examples.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

This is a great resource to use! Went great with my civics/government lesson, and can be brought into the multiple lessons involving social studies!

Elizabeth W.

I LOVE how explicitly this ties in to our second grade social studies standards for CA! Great supports for EL students as well. Every product I have purchased so far from your store has been incredibly thorough and high quality. I will definitely be back for more--thank you!

Lindsey Goff Viducich

My passion is making learning accessible to all students.
I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections.
I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.

teach MATH | teach SCIENCE | teach READING | teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED