



Play by the Rules

Twin brothers Christopher and Matthew were arguing rather loudly when their father walked into the room. He wanted to know what all the fuss was about. Christopher explained that they were trying to play a card game, but Matthew kept changing the rules. Matthew said he didn't see anything wrong with making up new rules, but Christopher complained because that made the game too confusing and not fun anymore.

The boys' father thought a moment then remembered he had seen their social studies book on the kitchen table, and it was open to a chapter they'd been studying about the United States Constitution. He decided to mediate their argument by using the Constitution as an example of why it is beneficial to have a set of fair and consistent rules for everyone to follow. Otherwise, the game keeps changing and it leads to chaos, which takes away the challenge and strategy and fun. No one knows what to expect or how to win.

The twins listened carefully and began to understand what their father was talking about. Matthew agreed to finish this game by the rules, but then he suggested that he and Christopher start from scratch and make up their very own game. Both Christopher and Dad thought that was a great idea!

Directions: Based on the story, decide whether the statements below are true or false. Then fill in the circle for the correct answer.

- 1. Christopher and Matthew are twin brothers.
 True False
- 2. The boys were arguing about whose turn it was to put the card game away.
 True False
- 3. Their father came into the room to investigate their loud arguing.
 True False
- 4. He used the United States Constitution as an example of the need for rules.
 True False