

Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

Social Studies

Social Studies

# Home of the Brave

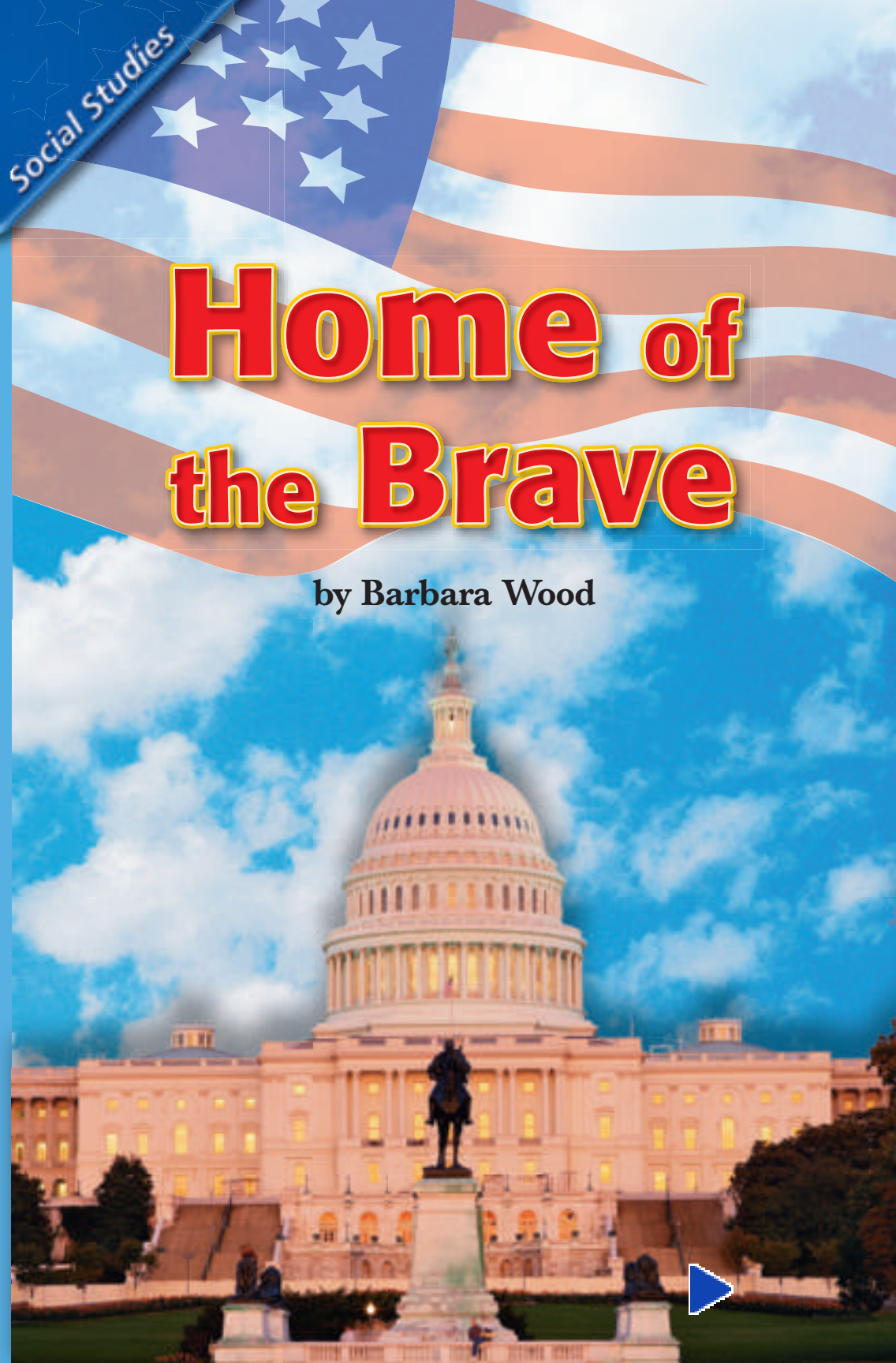
by Barbara Wood

Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy	Text Features
Expository nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fact and Opinion</li><li>• Generalize</li><li>• Monitor and Fix Up</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Captions</li><li>• Maps</li><li>• Glossary</li></ul>

Scott Foresman Reading Street 2.6.2



scottforesman.com





# Home of the Brave

by Barbara Wood



PEARSON  
Scott  
Foresman

Editorial Offices: Glenview, Illinois • Parsippany, New Jersey • New York, New York  
Sales Offices: Needham, Massachusetts • Duluth, Georgia • Glenview, Illinois  
Coppell, Texas • Ontario, California • Mesa, Arizona





## What is democracy?

Think about your classroom. Who makes the rules? Does your teacher sometimes ask you to help make decisions? Imagine you had to find a way to make decisions with thousands of other people!

This is what happens in many countries around the world. A **democracy** is when the people living in a country decide on things together. The United States of America is a type of democracy.



A democracy allows people to vote for officials who will run their country and help make decisions.

Every effort has been made to secure permission and provide appropriate credit for photographic material. The publisher deeply regrets any omission and pledges to correct errors called to its attention in subsequent editions.

Unless otherwise acknowledged, all photographs are the property of Scott Foresman, a division of Pearson Education.

Photo locators denoted as follows: Top (T), Center (C), Bottom (B), Left (L), Right (R), Background (Bkgd)

Opener: Library of Congress; 1 (C) Getty Images; 3 © Gary I. Rothstein/Reuters/Corbis; 4 Library of Congress; 5 Library of Congress; 7 Library of Congress; 8 ©DK Images; 9 Art Resource, NY; 10 Getty Images; 12 Matthew Brady/Library of Congress; 13 Courtesy of the Boston Public Library Print Department; 14 Library of Congress; 15 (B) Getty Images; 16 (TL) David Young-Wolff/PhotoEdit, (TR) Bob Daemmrich/PhotoEdit; 17 © Comstock Inc.; 18 Getty Images

ISBN: 0-328-13312-4

Copyright © Pearson Education, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. Printed in the United States of America. This publication is protected by Copyright, and permission should be obtained from the publisher prior to any prohibited reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, or transmission in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or likewise. For information regarding permission(s), write to: Permissions Department, Scott Foresman, 1900 East Lake Avenue, Glenview, Illinois 60025.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 V010 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05







## The American Revolution

At one time in **history**, there were not fifty states as there are today. Instead, there were thirteen colonies. A **colony** is a group of settlers ruled by another country.

The American Colonies were ruled by Great Britain. Great Britain helped to protect the thirteen colonies. The colonists got tea, cloth, and other supplies from Great Britain. In return, the colonists had to follow British rules and pay tax money to Britain.



Colonists, angry about taxes, threw tea into the harbor during the Boston Tea Party.



The colonists did not like paying money to Britain, but they had no say in the matter. They decided they wanted to be free from British rule. They wanted to make their own decisions. They wanted to have their own **government**.

In 1775, war broke out between the colonists and the British soldiers. The war was called the American Revolution. Through this war, America won its

**independence**.

Americans became free to make their own rules and decisions.



The American Colonies were ruled by the British king, George III.





The original thirteen colonies were on the east coast.



A plantation is a large farm.



## Creating a Government

To build a strong country, the people had to agree to create a new government and work together. In those days, it was hard to travel. Mail was very slow. Working together was tough!

Creating a new government was not easy. Americans living in different parts of the country had different needs. In the northern colonies, people were interested in fishing and building ships. In the central colonies, people ran small farms. In the South, people ran large farms, called plantations.







**In ancient Rome people elected officials to represent them.**

**How could all the states make decisions together? What kind of government would be fair to everyone?**

Americans wanted to create the best government possible. They looked at the democracy of ancient Greece, where every person could take part in government. They talked about the republic of Rome, a kind of democracy where people elected officials to represent them in government. They thought about the way some Native American groups made decisions. They also talked about the many good laws of England.

## **The United States Constitution**

A group of men from the different states met together. Today we call these men our Founding Fathers. The Founding Fathers wrote the United States Constitution. In it they explained how people would choose a president to lead the country.

They explained how people would choose lawmakers to make the laws. They also explained how courts would be set up to make sure the laws were followed. Every few years, the people would choose new leaders.

**George Washington and other Founding Fathers in 1787**





All of this happened more than two hundred years ago. Today, we still follow the Constitution, and the United States is still a democracy.

A democracy is not run by just one person, such as a king or an emperor. In a democracy many people work together to make decisions. Everyone living in a democracy has rights and freedoms.



The United States Capitol is in Washington, D.C. This is where our leaders make our nation's laws.







## Rights and Freedoms

Abraham Lincoln was the sixteenth president of the United States. In a famous speech in 1863, he reminded Americans that their government was “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” This means the people are in charge. The people can choose their leaders and the lawmakers. The President is not allowed to make all the rules and decisions by himself. Part of the President’s job is to listen to the ideas of people from all over the country.



Abraham Lincoln



Martin Luther King Jr. was a famous African American leader who worked hard to obtain rights and freedoms for all Americans.



## The Bill of Rights

The Founding Fathers decided to add a list of freedoms to the Constitution. The list is called the Bill of Rights. New laws cannot take away these freedoms.

One of our freedoms is freedom of speech. Freedom of speech means people can give their opinion about almost anything. They can even disagree with the President.







Freedom of religion is another important freedom. This freedom means people have the right to believe what they wish. They can worship wherever they want. A lot of early settlers came to America because they did not have this freedom in their own countries. Even today, some people move to the United States to gain these rights.



These early pilgrims moved to America so that they could practice freedom of religion.



## Symbol of Freedom

*Liberty* is another word for freedom. The Statue of Liberty in New York City is an important **symbol** of freedom. The people of France gave the Statue of Liberty to the people of America as a gift more than one hundred years ago. The Statue of Liberty shows a woman holding a torch. The torch stands for the light of freedom. The woman also wears a crown with seven rays coming out of the top. The rays stand for the seven **continents** of the world.





These people cast their votes at voting booths.



## Fair Elections

In a democracy all people can vote on important decisions. It is important that voting happens fairly. This is why voting is open to all citizens. If some people were not allowed to vote, their ideas would not be heard.

In a democracy each person's vote is kept secret. People cannot be forced to tell other people how they voted. This way, everyone can feel safe and can vote exactly as they think is right.



## Everyone Needs to Take Part

For a democracy to work, everyone needs to participate. Some people participate by running for election. Others help by writing letters telling government leaders about their opinions. All citizens can help by reading and learning a lot about what is going on in their country.

Even kids can take part. Right now, you are already helping by learning all about democracy!







## Now Try This

### Invent a Group Government

What do you think would be the best way to work together with your classmates in a group? The Founding Fathers met to talk about how their new democracy would work. In a small group with other classmates, talk about how you could work and make decisions together.



### Here's How to Do It!

1. First, brainstorm a list of ideas. Who will be in charge? How will the leader or leaders be chosen? What rights and freedoms will you have?
2. Look through your ideas and decide which ones you like best. Write a short constitution explaining your ideas.
3. Explain your idea for a group government to your class. Other groups will tell about their ideas too.
4. Compare your ideas. In your opinion, which ideas would work best? Why?

**Your Rights  
and Freedoms**



**The Constitution**





# Glossary

**colony** *n.* a group of settlers ruled by another country.

**continents** *n.* the seven large areas of land on Earth.

**democracy** *n.* a type of government.

**government** *n.* how a country is ruled.

**history** *n.* a record of events from the past.

**independence** *n.* freedom.

**symbol** *n.* an image that reminds us of an idea.



# Reader Response

1. Make a T-chart like the one below. On one side write some facts you have learned about voting. On the other side write your opinions about these facts.

Facts	Opinions

2. Reread pages 13–14. In your own words explain what it means to have freedoms.
3. What are some symbols of the United States of America? Can you find them in this book?
4. Look at the map on page 6. What does the map show in the light green color?

