

Name: _____

Date: _____

Civics 4 Kids!

Vandalism



Vandalism is a crime done on purpose to destroy or deface public or private property. It is property damage of something that is owned by someone else.

Some examples of vandalism are graffiti, damaging cars, knocking down street signs, breaking windows, and writing in library books.



Definition Matching

Try matching the following terms with their definitions.

Terms

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| – | Graffiti |
| – | Public Property |
| – | Private Property |
| – | Mural |
| – | Permission |
| – | Tagger |
| – | Deface |

Definitions

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Property that people may not enter without the permission of the owner. This could include your own house, a coffee shop, a store, or a private parking lot. |
| 2. | To damage the visual appearance of something. |
| 3. | The writing, marking, painting or scratching of a mark, name or message on any surface without the permission of the owner. |
| 4. | One who uses graffiti to mark, or “tag” any surface with a name or initials. |
| 5. | A large picture painted on a wall or building with the permission of the property’s owner. It is a type of street art. |
| 6. | Property owned and maintained by the community/government. This includes parks, park benches, schools, street signs, and sidewalks. |
| 7. | To do something with the approval of the person who owns the property. |





Discussion Points

- If someone damaged my property, I would feel...

- I have seen graffiti...

- The difference between graffiti and street art is...

Answer Key

Vandalism



It is okay if the child does not know the answers, and you can help them by talking through the answers below.

Definition Matching:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Graffiti – 3 | Permission – 7 |
| Public Property – 6 | Tagger – 4 |
| Private Property – 1 | Deface – 2 |
| Mural – 5 | |

Discussion Points:

If someone damaged my property, I would feel...

Answers will vary but maybe include upset, mad, afraid or frustrated. Explain that it would not feel good if someone damaged your property, and you should not damage other people's property because it would not make them feel good either. It also costs money to fix or replace damaged property and people work hard for their money.

I have seen graffiti...

Answers will vary but may include walls, alleyways, community centres, bathrooms, parks, trucks and trains. Explain that graffiti is often done with spray paint on outside walls or vehicles, and with markers or pens on inside walls. It takes time and money to remove graffiti.

The difference between graffiti and street art is...

Encourage students to look at the definitions of "graffiti" and "mural" to help them figure out the answer. The difference is that street art is done with the permission of the property owner, while graffiti is done without permission, and is against the law (illegal). Explain that graffiti can be reported so that it can be removed to prevent more graffiti from being done in the same area.