

Everyone Pays Taxes



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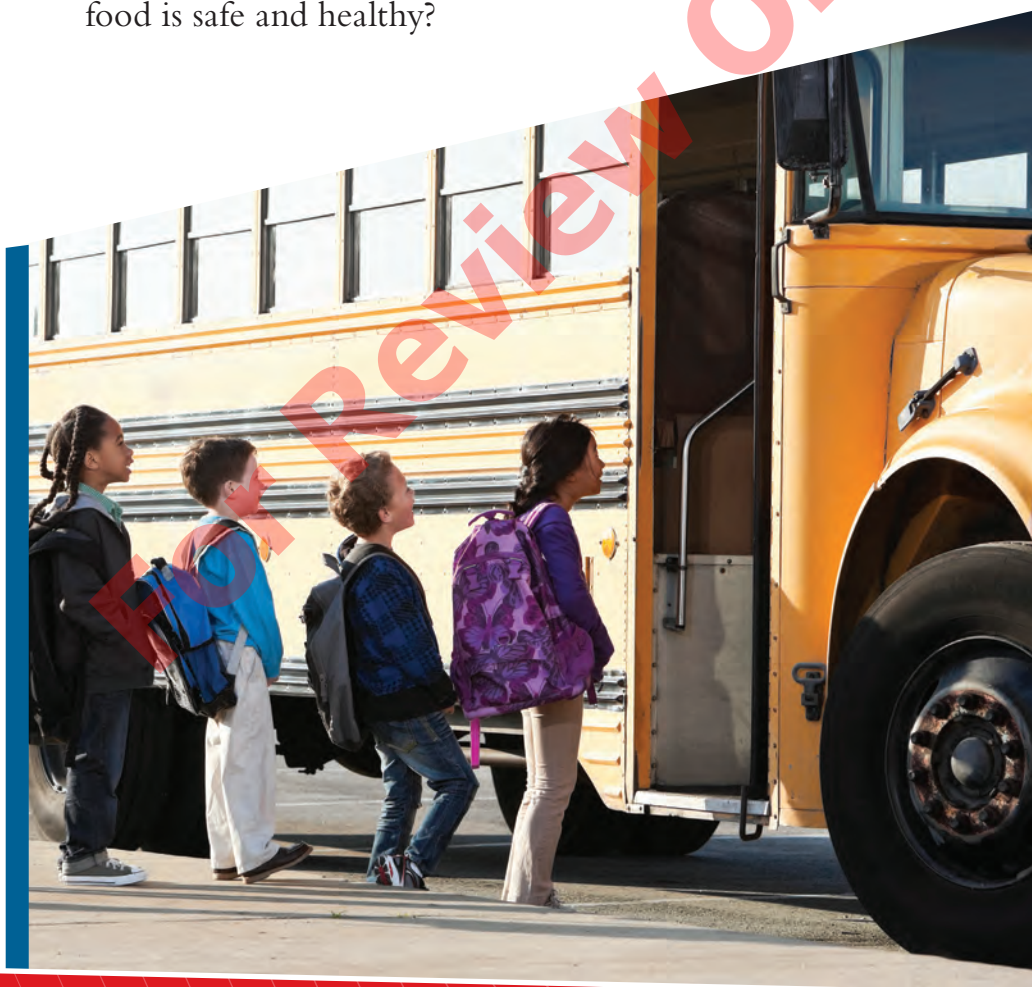
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Who Pays?

A student wakes up, turns on her light, and eats. She brushes her teeth. She takes a bus to school and back home again. After school, she plays soccer at a local park. Then, she eats a tasty meal with her family.

Who pays for the electricity and water she uses in her house? Who pays for the bus and the school? Who pays for the field where she plays soccer? Who makes sure her food is safe and healthy?



You might say her parents pay for the food, electricity, and water. Her city pays for the bus. The school district pays for the school. The county pays for the field.

These things often cost more than individual people or groups pay. Many of these things are paid for by **taxes**. But what exactly are taxes?



Jump into
Fiction



The Super Duper Sloopper Book of Slime

As soon as the bell rings, Paula sprints out of her classroom, past the lunchroom, and toward the library.

“Walk!” shouts Ms. Flowers.

“I *am* walking!”

“No, you’re not!”

Paula slows to a speed walk and says, “I have to get to the book fair! The new *Super Duper Sloopper Book of Slime* just came out. It has a hundred slime recipes, including one for magnetic slime!”





"If I see any magnetic slime in my classroom, there will be no recess for the rest of the school year!"

Paula smiles. "You say 'no recess' about everything, Ms. Flowers!"

"I mean it this time!" Ms. Flowers adds with a grin.

"Okay, fine. Can I saunter to the book fair?" Paula asks.

"Using the new vocabulary—well done! Yes, you may saunter," Ms. Flowers says, laughing.





Paula walks into the library. She sees books stacked on shelves. Excited children buzz around the room.

Paula finds the arts and crafts section. She steps around the little kids pulling out books from the bottom shelf. Paula grabs a huge book with a glossy cover. She looks at the price on the back—\$19.99. She takes a bill out of her pocket and unfolds it. “Perfect! And I’ll have one penny left over!” she says to herself.





Paula walks to the cashier and hands him the book.

“That’ll be \$21.49, please,” the cashier says.

Paula looks at him, confused. “But it says \$19.99 on the back!” she says.

“The sales tax makes it more,” the cashier replies.

“But I’m just a kid!” she begs.

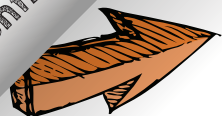
“Sorry, kid. Everyone has to pay taxes.”



School Book Fair

Super Duper Slooper Book of Slime	\$19.99
Sales Tax	\$1.50
TOTAL	\$21.49

Back to
Nonfiction



Everyone Pays Taxes

Taxes are money the government collects from people to pay for things everybody uses. Taxes pay for roads, hospitals, schools, and libraries. Who pays taxes? Everyone pays taxes!

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