

WHAT ARE PROTESTS?

Understanding Public Demonstrations



Sometimes I see people walking together in big groups, holding signs, and marching together on the streets. I may see these large groups of people in person, on the T.V., or on the internet. What are those people doing? Why do they look unhappy?



Today, I am learning that those unhappy people are a part of a protest. A **protest** is when people come together in public to show they are angry, sad, upset, or disagree about something happening in the world. A person who joins a protest is called a **protestor**.



A protest usually happens when people are angry or disagree with a rule, action, or idea made by a person or organization. People can protest about almost anything, from not being able to go outside to not liking how another group of people treat them. Some protests happen about gun violence, racism, or war.



At a protest, people can share their feelings and work together to make things change. Large groups of people gather to protest to show how many people think a rule or action was unfair. Protests help people who are not protesting understand why the protestors are unhappy.





A protest can be small, or big; there can even be a protest that happens in many places at the same time because it is about the same unfair rule, action, or idea. People who protest sometimes make signs or banners to hold, or dress in a special way to show they are protesting together.



Sometimes protests can be loud and I might feel anxious or frightened. People might be yelling about their concerns. If I am frightened, I can talk to an adult to move away from the protest, or stop watching it on T.V. or the internet.



If I see a protest and want to know what people are protesting about, it is important to ask trusted adults around me to help me understand. I can learn a lot about them, and even decide if I want to support the people protesting too.



It is okay for me to feel curious about what makes people protest and to be a little scared of what is happening around me. I am still happy to understand that protests are very important and normal things for people to do and that I can still feel safe in my home!

