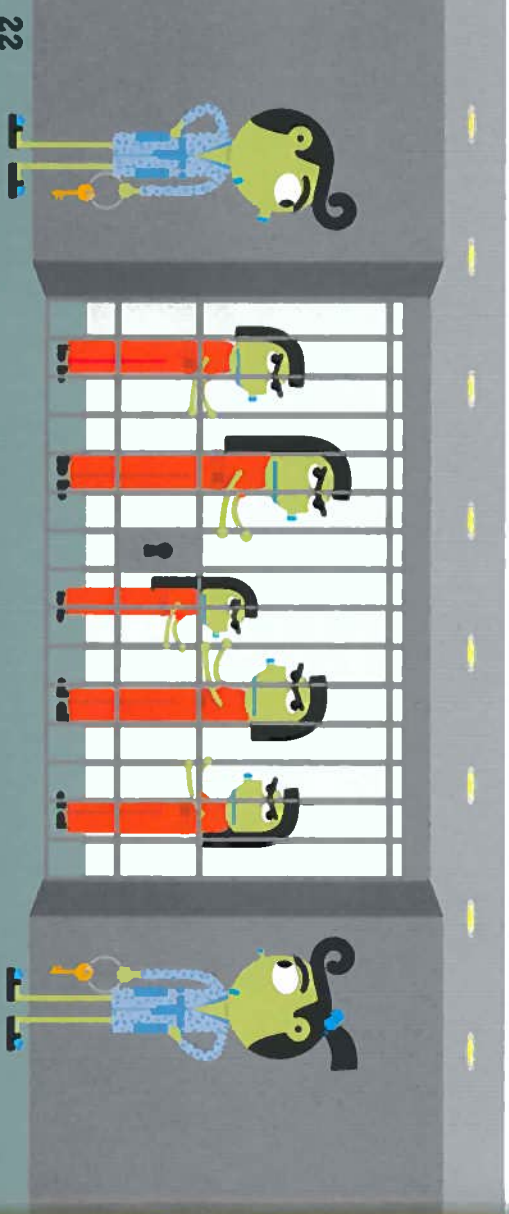


# Making the Laws

Laws are a bit like the rules of a game. But are they really necessary? Well, just imagine a soccer game without rules. Want extra players on the field? Go for it! A little tripping or shoving? No problem! Now imagine a whole country without rules. So, yes, your country will need laws. Any country can make up a law — as long as it can be enforced. Let's say you don't like straight hair. Simply announce a law that bans it, and then enforce it by arresting and imprisoning all people with straight hair. Done!

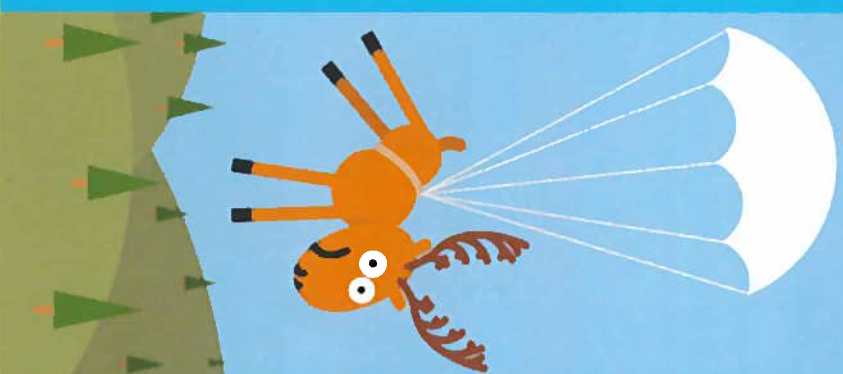
or unequal, like imprisoning people just because they have straight hair or because they criticize the government or practice a certain religion. The laws they will obey are laws that protect them, their freedoms and their property, and those that protect shared things, such as the environment. So keep that in mind when you're drafting laws. Better yet, turn over the job of law-making to the people's representatives. The citizens have elected them to represent their interests. So they are more likely to obey laws that have been passed by those representatives, rather than ones that you've made up. That's another reason democracies are successful.



## Spot the Fake Law

Eight of these are actual laws that once existed or continue to exist in parts of the world. But one is a fake. Can you guess which? Answers on page 39.

1. Thailand: It is illegal to leave your house if you are not wearing underwear.
2. Italy: A man may be arrested for wearing a skirt.
3. Australia: It is illegal to feed a kangaroo in a restaurant.
4. Israel: It is forbidden to bring bears to the beach.
5. Denmark: No one may start a car while someone is underneath the vehicle.
6. Alabama: It is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while operating a vehicle.
7. Canada: Citizens may not publicly remove bandages.
8. Alaska: It is illegal to push a live moose out of a moving airplane.
9. Pennsylvania: It is illegal to sleep on top of a refrigerator outdoors.



## Take It to Court

Most countries have a court system that's like a pyramid. At the bottom are the courts that judge the cases first. If one side doesn't think the judgment is fair, it can appeal to a higher court. At the top of the pyramid is the highest court in the country, sometimes called the high, supreme or constitutional court. This top-level court has the final say on who's guilty and who's innocent. Usually, it can also throw out laws that go against the principles set out in the country's constitution.

