

Water Works Together

Trace local, state, and federal roles in a community water problem.

SS.4.CG.3 "Structure and Functions of Government"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In paragraphs 2 and 3, underline one job done by each level of government, local, state, and federal. Circle the group or leader that does each underlined job.

A Pipe Problem

- ① Government works at three levels: local, state, and federal. Local government serves a city, town, or county. State government serves everyone in one state. Federal government serves the whole nation. At each level, officials have different jobs. Lawmaking bodies create laws, executive leaders carry out laws, and courts at the state and federal levels decide cases about laws. The levels can work together on community problems.
- ② In River Glen, residents learn that an old water pipe may need repair. The city council, a local lawmaking body, can vote to spend city money on the repair. The mayor and the public works department can arrange the work after the vote. This local action focuses on a need in River Glen. It helps provide safe water for people who live there.
- ③ At the state level, an environmental agency can inspect water systems and require a city to fix a problem under state rules. State lawmakers can make those rules, and state courts can hear cases about them. The federal government makes national drinking-water rules through laws and agencies. It can enforce those national rules when water systems must meet the same safety standards across the country.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What area does local government serve, compared with federal government?

2 Which local lawmaking body can vote to spend money to repair River Glen's water pipe?

3 How is the state environmental agency's water job different from the federal government's water job?

4 What do courts at the state and federal levels do?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Use only River Glen's water-pipe problem from the passage. Write a three-sentence plan, with one sentence for local government, one for state government, and one for federal government. In each sentence, name a group or leader and explain its job.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In paragraphs 2 and 3, underline one job done by each level of government, local, state, and federal. Circle the group or leader that does each underlined job. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What area does local government serve, compared with federal government?	Local government serves a city, town, or county. Federal government serves the whole nation.
2	Which local lawmaking body can vote to spend money to repair River Glen's water pipe?	The city council.
3	How is the state environmental agency's water job different from the federal government's water job?	The state agency can inspect water systems and require repairs under state rules. The federal government makes and can enforce national drinking-water rules.
4	What do courts at the state and federal levels do?	They decide or hear cases about laws.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The River Glen city council can vote to spend city money to repair the old pipe. The state environmental agency can inspect the water system and require repairs under state rules. The federal government can enforce national drinking-water rules so water systems meet the same safety standards.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the roles if they match the passage. For the open response, look for one accurate local, state, and federal role connected to River Glen's water-pipe problem.