

Pay Paths

Compare wages, salaries, and commissions.

SS.4.FL.1.3 “Workers are paid for their labor in different ways such as wages, salaries, or commissions. Explain the ways in which workers are paid.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each pay word, *wage*, *salary*, or *commission*. Circle the words that tell how each worker's pay is figured so you can compare the three methods.

Behind the Theater Curtain

- ① At the Riverside Theater, workers help each show happen. Maya sells tickets before the show. She earns an hourly wage of \$15. For every hour she works, the theater pays her \$15. If she works more hours during a busy week, she earns more money. Her pay is based on the time she works there.
- ② Jordan is the theater manager. Jordan receives a salary of \$42,000 each year. A salary is a set amount paid for doing a job over a certain time, such as a year. Jordan's pay does not change just because one week has more performances. The manager plans schedules, orders supplies, and leads the staff each day.
- ③ Leo invites groups to rent the theater for parties. He earns a commission, which is pay based on sales he makes. The theater gives Leo 8 percent of each party rental he sells. When he sells more rentals, his commission grows. Workers and employers may agree on different pay methods, depending on the job needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why could Maya earn more money during a busy week?

2 Which worker's pay stays the same even if there are more performances in one week? Explain why.

3 How is Leo's commission figured?

4 Explain one way Maya's pay is different from Leo's pay.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Complete the table with three different jobs. Use one job paid by wages, one paid by a salary, and one paid by commission, then explain how each worker's pay is figured.

JOB	PAY METHOD	HOW THE PAY IS FIGURED

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each pay word, *wage*, *salary*, or *commission*. Circle the words that tell how each worker's pay is figured so you can compare the three methods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why could Maya earn more money during a busy week?	Maya is paid an hourly wage, so she earns more when she works more hours.
2	Which worker's pay stays the same even if there are more performances in one week? Explain why.	Jordan's pay stays the same because Jordan receives a set yearly salary.
3	How is Leo's commission figured?	Leo earns 8 percent of each party rental he sells.
4	Explain one way Maya's pay is different from Leo's pay.	Maya is paid for each hour she works, while Leo is paid based on the party rentals he sells.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

JOB	PAY METHOD	HOW THE PAY IS FIGURED
Dog walker	Wage	Earns money for each hour of walking dogs.
School principal	Salary	Receives a set amount of pay each year.
Car salesperson	Commission	Earns money based on the cars sold.

Accept equivalent explanations that correctly connect wages to time worked, salaries to a set amount over a time period, and commissions to sales. For the table, accept reasonable jobs and accurate pay-method explanations.