

Tax Dollars at Work

Follow income taxes from earnings to community needs.

SS.4.FL.1.8 "Income earned from working and most other sources of income are taxed. Describe ways that the revenue from these taxes is used to pay for government provided goods and services."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each way people can earn income. Circle each government-provided good or service that tax revenue can help pay for, so you can connect tax money to community needs.

How Tax Revenue Helps

- ① When Maya earns money walking dogs, she receives income. Adults may earn income from jobs, running businesses, or investments. Governments collect taxes from income, including pay from work and many other kinds of income. A tax is money people and businesses pay to government. The government uses this revenue, the money collected from taxes, to help meet public needs.
- ② Tax revenue can pay for government-provided goods and services. Goods are things people can use, such as repaired streets, library books, and equipment for a public school. Services are work done for the public, such as police services, firefighting services, and keeping a public library open. Tax revenue can also help pay workers who provide these services and maintain public places.
- ③ Leaders decide how to use tax revenue by making budgets. A budget is a plan for spending money. For example, a town may use some tax revenue to repair a bridge, buy new library books, and fund firefighting services. These choices can affect many people. When residents pay taxes, they help support goods and services that the whole community can share or depend on.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 A resident earns pay from a job. Describe what can happen to some of that income before it helps pay for a public need.

2 Name one government-provided good and one government-provided service that tax revenue can help pay for.

3 What are two ways town leaders might use tax revenue in their budget?

4 Why can tax-funded goods and services help residents even when not everyone uses the same one?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine your town has collected tax revenue. Write 3 sentences proposing money for one good and one service named in the passage. Explain how each choice helps the community.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each way people can earn income. Circle each government-provided good or service that tax revenue can help pay for, so you can connect tax money to community needs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A resident earns pay from a job. Describe what can happen to some of that income before it helps pay for a public need.	The government collects taxes from the income. The tax revenue can then pay for public needs.
2	Name one government-provided good and one government-provided service that tax revenue can help pay for.	Answers may include a repaired street, library books, public school equipment, or a repaired bridge for a good, and police services, firefighting services, or keeping a public library open for a service.
3	What are two ways town leaders might use tax revenue in their budget?	They may repair a bridge, buy new library books, or fund firefighting services.
4	Why can tax-funded goods and services help residents even when not everyone uses the same one?	Residents help support goods and services that the whole community can share or depend on.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town should use tax revenue to repair a bridge and fund firefighting services. The repaired bridge is a good that helps people travel safely. Firefighting services help protect the whole community during fires.

Accept any accurate income-to-tax explanation and any listed good or service from the passage. For Your Turn, accept a three-sentence proposal that includes one passage-based good, one passage-based service, and logical community benefits.