

# Power Has Jobs

Identify how levels and branches of government serve people.

**SS.5.CG.3** "Structure and Functions of Government"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each phrase that tells what a government does, then write F, S, or L beside it to show the level of government. Circle the name of each of the three federal branches.

### Who Does What?

- ① In the United States, power is shared among federal, state, and local governments. The federal government makes decisions for the whole nation. It is responsible for national defense, printing money, and making rules about trade between states. Each state government handles statewide needs, such as setting rules for public schools and issuing driver's licenses. State leaders also organize statewide elections.
- ② Local governments work closest to the people in a community. A city or county government may maintain streets, collect trash, provide police and fire protection, and run parks. School districts make local decisions about schools. Because local leaders know their community's needs, they can decide where a new park or a repaired road is most needed.
- ③ At the federal level, the government has three branches. Congress, the legislative branch, makes laws. The president leads the executive branch, which carries out laws. Federal courts, the judicial branch, explain laws and decide whether laws follow the Constitution. The branches have different jobs, so no one person or group controls all federal power alone.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

- 1** Which level of government is responsible for national defense? Use a phrase from the passage to support your answer.

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- 2** Give one job of a state government and one job of a local government from the passage.

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- 3** Name the three federal branches and tell what each branch does.

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- 4** Why is it important that the federal branches have different jobs?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose a community need. Write exactly three sentences: explain a local action and a state action that could help, then name the federal branch that would make a nationwide law about the need and tell its job.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each phrase that tells what a government does, then write F, S, or L beside it to show the level of government. Circle the name of each of the three federal branches. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                             | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Which level of government is responsible for national defense? Use a phrase from the passage to support your answer. | <b>The federal government. The passage says it is responsible for national defense.</b>                                                                               |
| 2 | Give one job of a state government and one job of a local government from the passage.                               | <b>A state government can set rules for public schools. A local government can maintain streets, collect trash, provide police and fire protection, or run parks.</b> |
| 3 | Name the three federal branches and tell what each branch does.                                                      | <b>The legislative branch makes laws. The executive branch carries out laws. The judicial branch explains laws and decides whether laws follow the Constitution.</b>  |
| 4 | Why is it important that the federal branches have different jobs?                                                   | <b>Different jobs keep one person or group from controlling all federal power alone.</b>                                                                              |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Our town needs safer crossings near the library. The city could add crosswalk signs, and the state could set safety rules for roads. If the country needed a nationwide crossing law, Congress, the legislative branch, would make it.

Accept any accurate function from the passage for Questions 2 and 3. For Question 1, students must identify the federal government and support it with the passage's statement that federal responsibilities include national defense.