

Who Serves Us?

Compare government duties and services at three levels.

SS.7.CG.3.13 "Explain government obligations to its citizens and the services provided at the local, state, and national levels."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each government obligation, underline each service, and write L, S, or N beside each service to show whether it is local, state, or national. These marks will help you compare how the levels work separately and together.

Government at Work

- ① Government has obligations to the people it serves. At every level, it must protect rights, enforce laws fairly, and use public money for public purposes. Governments also provide services for community needs, such as safe streets or emergency response during crises. The United States Constitution limits government power and protects important rights. Citizens can vote, contact officials, attend meetings, and use courts to hold government accountable when they believe services or rights are not handled lawfully.
- ② In Pine Ridge, local government handles needs closest to daily life. The city funds police protection, maintains neighborhood streets, and operates a public water system. The county may run elections and maintain county roads. During a wildfire, local police can block an unsafe street and direct people away from danger. Local leaders also share emergency information with residents. These services help protect safety and keep the community functioning. They are paid for through taxes and approved public budgets.
- ③ State government works across the whole state. It maintains state highways, licenses drivers, and supports public schools and state police. In an emergency, the governor can coordinate state agencies and request federal help. The national government provides national defense, manages immigration and trade with other nations, and operates services such as the Postal Service. Federal agencies may offer disaster aid when legal requirements are met. Each level has different duties, but they often cooperate so residents receive needed protection and services.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

What are two obligations that government has to the people it serves?

2

Choose one local service from Pine Ridge. Explain how that service helps residents.

3

How is one state service different from one national service in the passage?

4

What can the governor do during an emergency, and when may federal agencies offer disaster aid?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine that a wildfire threatens Pine Ridge. Fill in the table with one passage-based service or action for each level of government and explain how it could help residents. For the national level, use disaster aid only when legal requirements are met.

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	SERVICE OR ACTION	HOW IT HELPS RESIDENTS

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each government obligation, underline each service, and write L, S, or N beside each service to show whether it is local, state, or national. These marks will help you compare how the levels work separately and together. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two obligations that government has to the people it serves?	Government must protect rights, enforce laws fairly, and use public money for public purposes. Accept any two.
2	Choose one local service from Pine Ridge. Explain how that service helps residents.	Answers may name police protection, neighborhood streets, the public water system, elections, county roads, blocked unsafe streets, or emergency information, with an accurate explanation of how it helps residents.
3	How is one state service different from one national service in the passage?	A state service works across the state, such as maintaining state highways or licensing drivers. A national service addresses the whole country, such as national defense, immigration and trade, or the Postal Service.
4	What can the governor do during an emergency, and when may federal agencies offer disaster aid?	The governor can coordinate state agencies and request federal help. Federal agencies may offer disaster aid when legal requirements are met.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GOVERNMENT LEVEL	SERVICE OR ACTION	HOW IT HELPS RESIDENTS
Local	Police block an unsafe street and share emergency information.	People are directed away from danger.
State	The governor coordinates state agencies and requests federal help.	The emergency response is organized across the state.
National	A federal agency offers disaster aid when legal requirements are met.	Eligible residents can receive federal assistance.

Accept other accurate passage-based services matched to the correct level of government. In the final task, require a local, state, and national response, plus a reasonable explanation of how each response helps.