

Law Job Detectives

Read closely to match each state branch with its law job.

SS3CG1.c "State the main responsibility of each branch: executive (enforcing laws), legislative (making laws), judicial (interprets the laws)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that name a branch. Circle the words that tell each branch's main job, so you can match every branch to its responsibility.

Three Jobs for Laws

- ① In a state government, leaders share the work of governing. This work is divided among three branches. A branch is a group with a special job. Sharing jobs helps keep one group from doing everything. The three branches are called the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the judicial branch. Each branch has an important responsibility with laws.
- ② State lawmakers serve in the legislative branch. Their main responsibility is making laws. They may listen to ideas, discuss a problem, and vote on a proposed law. If lawmakers decide a new law is needed, they can make it. For example, lawmakers might make a law about safety rules for people riding bicycles on streets and paths.
- ③ The executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws. Enforcing means carrying out laws and making sure they are followed. The judicial branch interprets the laws. Courts in this branch decide what laws mean when people disagree about them. For example, a court may decide how a bicycle safety law applies in a case. The branches have different jobs, but all are part of state government.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is the main responsibility of the legislative branch?

2 What does enforcing laws mean?

3 Which branch interprets laws when people disagree about what the laws mean?

4 Write the branch names in order for these jobs: makes a law, enforces the law, interprets the law.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Invent a law that could help people in your state. Write three sentences that tell how the legislative, executive, and judicial branches would each take part.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the words that name a branch. Circle the words that tell each branch's main job, so you can match every branch to its responsibility. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the main responsibility of the legislative branch?	Making laws.
2	What does enforcing laws mean?	Carrying out laws and making sure they are followed.
3	Which branch interprets laws when people disagree about what the laws mean?	The judicial branch.
4	Write the branch names in order for these jobs: makes a law, enforces the law, interprets the law.	Legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

State lawmakers make a law that requires helmets for scooter riders. The executive branch enforces the law by checking that riders follow it. The judicial branch interprets the law if people disagree about whether it applies to a certain scooter.

Accept any reasonable invented law. The response must accurately state that the legislative branch makes laws, the executive branch enforces laws, and the judicial branch interprets laws.