

Power in Georgia

Read how Georgia organizes power and citizen participation.

SS8CG1 "Describe the foundations of Georgia's government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number details in the passage: write 1 by information about the Constitution and branches, 2 by checks and balances, 3 by rights and responsibilities, and 4 by voting and political parties.

How Georgia Government Works

- ① Georgia's Constitution is the state's basic law. It sets out a framework for government and can be changed only through a formal amendment process. Like the U.S. Constitution, it divides state power among three branches. The General Assembly, made up of the Senate and House of Representatives, makes laws. The governor leads the executive branch, which carries out laws. Georgia's court system, including the Supreme Court of Georgia, makes up the judicial branch and interprets laws.
- ② Separation of powers keeps one branch from holding every power. Each branch has a main job, but branches can limit one another through checks and balances. For example, the governor may veto a bill passed by the General Assembly. The legislature can override that veto by a two-thirds vote in each house. Courts can decide whether a law follows the Georgia Constitution. These limits help protect citizens from unfair power. Georgia citizens have rights, such as freedom of speech and religion, and responsibilities, such as obeying laws, paying taxes, and serving on juries when called.
- ③ To vote in Georgia, a person must be a United States citizen, a Georgia resident, at least 18 years old, and registered to vote. Voting lets citizens choose officials and express views on public questions. Political parties organize people who share many ideas about government. In Georgia, parties nominate candidates, build platforms, and encourage voters to participate. Parties do not run the state government, but they can shape elections and public debate. Citizens may support a party, join one, or choose not to belong to any party.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does Georgia's Constitution divide state government power? Name the three branches and the main job of each.

2 How can the General Assembly check the governor after the governor vetoes a bill?

3 Name one right and one responsibility of Georgia citizens from the passage.

4 What four qualifications must a person meet to vote in Georgia? Give one role political parties play.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence news brief about a made-up Georgia proposal. Describe what the legislative, executive, and judicial branches could each do, include one check or balance, and show one way citizens could take part through a right, responsibility, voting, or a political party.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number details in the passage: write 1 by information about the Constitution and branches, 2 by checks and balances, 3 by rights and responsibilities, and 4 by voting and political parties. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does Georgia's Constitution divide state government power? Name the three branches and the main job of each.	It divides power among the legislative branch, which makes laws; the executive branch, which carries out laws; and the judicial branch, which interprets laws.
2	How can the General Assembly check the governor after the governor vetoes a bill?	The General Assembly can override the veto with a two-thirds vote in each house.
3	Name one right and one responsibility of Georgia citizens from the passage.	Answers may include freedom of speech or religion for a right, and obeying laws, paying taxes, or serving on juries when called for a responsibility.
4	What four qualifications must a person meet to vote in Georgia? Give one role political parties play.	A voter must be a U.S. citizen, a Georgia resident, at least 18 years old, and registered to vote. Parties may nominate candidates, build platforms, or encourage voters to participate.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The General Assembly passes a bill requiring longer library hours. The governor signs it, so executive agencies begin carrying out the new law. A resident files a court challenge, and judges decide whether the law follows Georgia's Constitution. This court review is a check on the other branches. Before the next election, citizens discuss the issue, learn party positions, and registered voters choose candidates who support their views.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately connect each branch to its role and explain a real check or balance. For the news brief, accept reasonable made-up proposals if all three branches and one form of citizen participation are included.