Who Owns It?

Read a neighborhood story about places people share and places they own.

3.SS.3.2 "Explain the difference between public and private property."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words that tell who owns each place. Circle one limit on using public property and one limit on using private property.

Nia's Walk Through Town

1. On Saturday, Nia walks past the town playground on her way to a neighbor's yard sale. The town owns the playground, so it is public property. People in the community may use it, but they must follow posted rules. Nia waits until the gate opens at nine. She knows that public does not mean she can use the playground at any time.

2. Next door, Mr. Chen has set out toys for sale in his front yard. His yard is private property because he owns it. Shoppers may walk up to the sale because he has invited them. They cannot open his shed or take his garden tools. His invitation lets people visit part of the yard, but it does not make the yard public property.

3. After the sale, Nia visits the town library. The town owns the building, and everyone may enter during open hours and follow its rules. Across the street, a bakery lets customers come inside, too. Yet the baker owns the shop, so it is private property. Nia notices that who owns a place matters more than whether visitors are allowed inside.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How are the playground and Mr. Chen's yard different kinds of property?

2. Why is Mr. Chen's yard still private property when shoppers can visit it?

3. People can enter both the library and the bakery. Why is one public property and the other private property?

4. How do the playground gate and Mr. Chen's shed show different limits on using public and private property?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a public place and a private place not named in the passage. Write three sentences that name both places, tell who owns each, and explain one way the rules for using them differ.

ANSWER KEY

Who Owns It?

GRADE 3 · 3.SS.3.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words that tell who owns each place. Circle one limit on using public property and one limit on using private property. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How are the playground and Mr. Chen's yard different kinds of property?	**The town owns the public playground. Mr. Chen owns his private yard.**
2	Why is Mr. Chen's yard still private property when shoppers can visit it?	**Mr. Chen owns the yard and has invited shoppers into only part of it.**
3	People can enter both the library and the bakery. Why is one public property and the other private property?	**The town owns the public library, but the baker owns the private bakery.**
4	How do the playground gate and Mr. Chen's shed show different limits on using public and private property?	**People must wait for the public playground to open. Shoppers invited onto Mr. Chen's private yard cannot open his shed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The town swimming pool is public property because the town owns it. My family's driveway is private property because my family owns it. People can swim at the pool when it is open, but they need our permission to park in our driveway.

Accept accurate examples of government-owned public property and person- or business-owned private property. Students should explain that access can have limits for either kind of property.