Who Handles Laws?

Read about the people who make, apply, and enforce laws.

3.SS.4.2 "Identify the people or groups that make, apply, and enforce laws in our local and national communities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each person or group that makes a law, circle each one that applies a law in court, and draw a box around each one that enforces a law.

A Law at the Park

1. On Saturday, Nia visits a city park with her dog, Pip. A sign says dogs must be on leashes. This rule is a city law. The city council made the law by voting on it. Council members wanted people and dogs to share the park safely. A city law works in that city, not in every city in the country.

2. Pip pulls away, and Nia quickly clips his leash back on. A city police officer sees a dog owner who keeps letting a dog run loose. The officer tells the owner to follow the law and gives a ticket. Officers enforce laws by checking that people follow them. If the owner challenges the ticket in court, a local judge applies the law to that case.

3. Nia later reads about a different law that protects mail across the whole country. Congress, a group of lawmakers from the states, makes national laws. Federal agents enforce laws about mail theft by investigating reports of stolen mail. In court, a federal judge applies the law to a mail theft case. A national law reaches places far beyond Nia's city.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Who made the city park law, and who enforces it?

2. Who applies the city law if the dog owner challenges the ticket?

3. Who makes national laws, and who enforces laws about mail theft?

4. Who applies the national law in a mail theft case?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a city law about a place other than a park. Write three sentences that tell who could make your law, who could enforce it, and who could apply it in court. Explain what each would do.

ANSWER KEY

Who Handles Laws?

GRADE 3 · 3.SS.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each person or group that makes a law, circle each one that applies a law in court, and draw a box around each one that enforces a law. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who made the city park law, and who enforces it?	**The city council made the law, and city police officers enforce it.**
2	Who applies the city law if the dog owner challenges the ticket?	**A local judge applies the city law.**
3	Who makes national laws, and who enforces laws about mail theft?	**Congress makes national laws, and federal agents enforce laws about mail theft.**
4	Who applies the national law in a mail theft case?	**A federal judge applies the national law.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My city council makes a law that bikes must have lights after dark on city streets. A police officer enforces the law by stopping a rider without a light. A local judge applies the law if the rider takes a ticket to court.

Accept other reasonable city laws and answers that correctly assign making to a local lawmaking group, enforcement to an officer, and applying the law in court to a judge.