Who Handles It?

Three state branches, three different jobs

4.SS.4.4 "Identify the three branches of state government and explain the major responsibilities of each."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the name of each branch, then circle one job it does in the same paragraph.

A Problem at the Park

1. Imagine a state park where visitors leave trash along a trail. People ask their state lawmakers for help. The **legislative branch**, made up of elected lawmakers, writes and votes on state laws. Lawmakers might pass a law that sets rules for keeping state parks clean. They also decide how state money is spent, including money for parks. Their job is to make laws, not to run a park each day.

2. A new park law needs people to put it into action. The **executive branch** carries out state laws. The governor leads this branch, which includes state agencies and their workers. A state parks agency could post new rules, hire workers to care for trails, and help visitors follow the law. The governor and agencies do not vote on laws in the state legislature. They work to put laws into practice.

3. What if a visitor says a park fine was unfair? The **judicial branch**, made up of state courts and judges, hears cases about state laws. A court could listen to both sides and decide how the park law applies to that visitor. Courts can also decide whether a state law follows the state constitution. Judges do not write park rules or direct the workers who clean trails. They settle legal questions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which branch could make a new state park law? What else does this branch decide about parks?

2. Which branch could post new park rules and hire trail workers? Explain why.

3. Which branch could hear a visitor's complaint about a park fine? What could it decide?

4. A visitor says a park law does not follow the state constitution. Which branch decides that question, and how is its job different from the lawmakers' job?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your state wants to make roads safer for people riding bikes. Write three sentences that name all three branches and give one different action each branch could take.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · 4.SS.4.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the name of each branch, then circle one job it does in the same paragraph. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which branch could make a new state park law? What else does this branch decide about parks?	**The legislative branch makes state laws and decides how state money is spent, including money for parks.**
2	Which branch could post new park rules and hire trail workers? Explain why.	**The executive branch could do this because it carries out state laws through state agencies.**
3	Which branch could hear a visitor's complaint about a park fine? What could it decide?	**The judicial branch could hear the case and decide how the park law applies to the visitor.**
4	A visitor says a park law does not follow the state constitution. Which branch decides that question, and how is its job different from the lawmakers' job?	**The judicial branch decides whether the law follows the state constitution. Lawmakers in the legislative branch make laws.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The legislative branch could pass a law telling drivers to give people on bikes more room. The executive branch could teach drivers about the new law. The judicial branch could hear a case about whether a driver broke the law.

Accept other accurate park duties supported by the passage. For Part 3, accept any three distinct, plausible actions that correctly match the branches' responsibilities.