Who Handles It?

Sort government responsibilities and explain your choices.

5.SS.4.5 "Distinguish and compare responsibilities among state, national, and tribal governments in a federal system."

NAME _____ DATE _____

STATE GOVERNMENT

A state government makes decisions for its state. Some jobs, such as running state parks, belong mainly to states.

A state health department inspects restaurants for food safety.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The national government makes decisions for the whole United States. It handles jobs that involve the country as a whole.

The national government runs the Navy.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle STATE or NATIONAL for each job, then pick two item numbers and write how you knew where each belonged.

1. Makes agreements with other countries — STATE / NATIONAL

2. Gives out driver's licenses — STATE / NATIONAL

3. Sets speed limits on state highways — STATE / NATIONAL

4. Creates U.S. dollars — STATE / NATIONAL

5. Issues U.S. passports — STATE / NATIONAL

6. Runs state parks — STATE / NATIONAL

7. Sets rules for becoming a U.S. citizen — STATE / NATIONAL

8. Sets rules for state public schools — STATE / NATIONAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a STATE job and one new example of a NATIONAL job.

STATE _____

NATIONAL _____

CHALLENGE

A tribal nation makes a rule for its own community. Explain in one sentence why you would not put this job in either sort category.

ANSWER KEY

Who Handles It?

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.4.5

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Makes agreements with other countries	**NATIONAL**	Relations with other countries are a national responsibility.
2	Gives out driver's licenses	**STATE**	States issue driver's licenses.
3	Sets speed limits on state highways	**STATE**	States set rules for their state highways.
4	Creates U.S. dollars	**NATIONAL**	The national government has authority over U.S. currency.
5	Issues U.S. passports	**NATIONAL**	The national government issues U.S. passports.
6	Runs state parks	**STATE**	State governments manage state parks.
7	Sets rules for becoming a U.S. citizen	**NATIONAL**	The national government sets citizenship rules.
8	Sets rules for state public schools	**STATE**	States set requirements for their public schools.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **STATE**: A state government sets rules for fishing in state waters.
- **NATIONAL**: The national government delivers mail through the U.S. Postal Service.

Challenge: It belongs to a tribal government, which can make rules for its own community.

For Part 2, accept explanations that name the level of government and connect it to the job. For example, item 5 is national because U.S. passports are issued for the whole country, while item 6 is state because states manage their own parks.