# A Town at Work

Read how a town meets needs people share.

**3.C.1** "Discuss the reasons governments are needed and identify specific goods and services that governments provide."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two reasons the town needs a government. Circle three goods or services the town government provides.

### Maya's Walk Through Town

1. After a rainy night, Maya walks to the town library. On the way, she crosses a street where a traffic light helps drivers and walkers take turns. A town crew clears leaves from a storm drain so water can flow off the road. Maya notices that these places and workers help many people, not just one family. Her town government helps provide and care for them.

2. Why does a town need a government? People share streets, and they need fair ways to use them safely. The town government makes traffic rules and puts up signs. It also pays workers to fix broken streetlights. One person could not easily make rules for every driver or repair every light. By working together through a government, neighbors can solve problems that affect the whole town.

3. At the library, Maya borrows a book without paying for that visit. The town uses money collected from taxes to help pay for the library. Later, Maya sees firefighters checking their truck. The town pays for this fire service so trained people can answer calls for help. A library and fire service meet different needs, but both are open to people across the town.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem does the traffic light help solve for people sharing the street?

2. Why does the town government make traffic rules instead of leaving each driver to make their own?

3. How does the town crew's work at the storm drain help people who use the road?

4. Name two services the town pays for, and tell how each helps people.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Think of a government good or service that is not named in the passage. Write three sentences: name it, explain how it helps people, and tell why a government should help provide it.

**ANSWER KEY**

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**GRADE 3 · 3.C.1**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons the town needs a government. Circle three goods or services the town government provides. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What problem does the traffic light help solve for people sharing the street? | **It helps drivers and walkers take turns.** |
| 2 | Why does the town government make traffic rules instead of leaving each driver to make their own? | **People need fair rules to share streets safely. One person cannot make rules for every driver.** |
| 3 | How does the town crew's work at the storm drain help people who use the road? | **Clearing leaves lets water flow off the road.** |
| 4 | Name two services the town pays for, and tell how each helps people. | **The library lets people borrow books. The fire service sends trained people to answer calls for help.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A public school is a government service I would add to a new neighborhood. It helps children learn reading, math, and other skills. The government should help pay for it so children can learn even if their families cannot afford a private school.

Accept passage-based answers that connect each good or service to a shared need. For Your Turn, accept a different, accurate government good or service with a clear reason for providing it.