Who Helps When?

Three levels of government, three kinds of duties

3.C.3 "Explain that the United States has three levels of government (i.e., local, state, and federal), and that each level has special duties and responsibilities."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Read the passage to find out how different levels of government help during a storm. Mark each level's duties so you can compare them.

Rain in Pine Town

1. On Monday, rain pours over Pine Town. A deep puddle covers the street by Maya's school. The United States has three levels of government: local, state, and federal. Local government handles many needs close to home. Pine Town workers clear leaves from a town street drain so water can flow away. The town fire department also helps people when a flooded street becomes unsafe.

2. The rain spreads across the whole state. Cars slow down near a damaged bridge on a state highway. The state government takes care of state highways, so state road workers check the bridge and make repairs. State police help drivers stay safe on the highway. These jobs reach beyond one town. A town crew cares for town streets, not every state highway.

3. Clouds stretch across many states. The federal government serves the whole country. Its National Weather Service watches storms and sends weather warnings to people in many places. After a very large disaster, the federal government may give extra help to states. It does not take over every town job. Each level has special duties, even when all three levels respond to the same storm.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which level of government clears the drain near Maya's school? Why does that job fit this level?

2. Which level checks the bridge on the state highway? Why does a town crew not handle every state highway?

3. Which level sends weather warnings to people in many states? Why does that job fit this level?

4. During the storm, how do the three levels' duties differ? Name one job for each level.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A family moves to a new town. Write three sentences about ways local, state, and federal governments could help them. Give one duty for each level that is different from the duties in the passage, and explain why it fits.

ANSWER KEY

Who Helps When?

GRADE 3 · 3.C.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Read the passage to find out how different levels of government help during a storm. Mark each level's duties so you can compare them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which level of government clears the drain near Maya's school? Why does that job fit this level?	**Local government clears the drain. It handles needs close to home, including town streets.**
2	Which level checks the bridge on the state highway? Why does a town crew not handle every state highway?	**State government checks the bridge. State highways reach beyond one town, while a town crew cares for town streets.**
3	Which level sends weather warnings to people in many states? Why does that job fit this level?	**Federal government sends the warnings through the National Weather Service. It serves the whole country.**
4	During the storm, how do the three levels' duties differ? Name one job for each level.	**Local workers clear a town street drain, state workers repair a bridge on a state highway, and the federal National Weather Service sends weather warnings.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Local government could run a town library because it serves people nearby. State government could issue driver's licenses because it sets rules for drivers across the state. Federal government could deliver mail because that service reaches people across the country.

For Part 1, students should underline local, state, and federal, circle two duties in each paragraph, and number the paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 from smallest to largest area served. For Part 3, accept other accurate duties not named in the passage when students explain how each duty fits its level.